Town of
Reading
Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT
1998

Date _____

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School is in

Largest turnout for non-state or national election approves school

By PAUL FEELY

READING - The largest voter turnout in town history for a non-state or national election headed to the Hawkes Field House yesterday to cast a ballot on the new Dividence Road school issue, with the plan to build a new elementary school passing 4,597 votes to 3,414 votes (with six blanks turned in).

Early counts showed that 8,017 voters turned out, or 51.9 percent of the town's registered voters. That tops the 34.6 percent turnout in last year's Special Election on the same issue, and topped the 47 percent turnout in the Proposition 2 1/2 override election in 1991 and the 50 percent turnout for the 1993 override election, making it the largest turnout in town for a non-state or national election ever according to records at the Town Clerk's office.

A strong promotional campaign by groups representing both sides of the issue can be created with the increased

Continued to Page 2

2000 READING SPECIAL ELECTION

Dividence Road School Issue

	Yes votes	No votes
Precinct 1	646	470
Precinct 2	406	399
Precinct 3	355	400
Precinct 4	727	361
Precinct 5	468	346
Precinct 6	636	427
Precinct 7	631	415
Precinct 8	728	596
Totals	4,597	3,414

Result: The new school passes.

national election (see related story and chart), with roughly 51.9 percent of the electorate casting a ballot.

The result of the election was in sharp contrast to last

to the Alice M. Barrows Elementary School.

The School Building Committee (SBC) brought the new school proposal back to Town Meeting this past

portion of the enrollment solution, was not a reimbursable project. Again, the project was approved, this time by an even wider margin, 145-18.

Town Meeting member William C. Brown, Precinct 8, again called for a referendum election, securing over twice the amount of signatures needed to force a town-wide special election.

Unlike the previous year, however, groups in the community formed extremely vocal ballot question committees, as laid out in state finance laws. CARE, Community Action for Reading Education, supported the new school, while PARENT, People Against the Raising of Excessive New Taxes, opposed the project.

Through privately held coffees, taped and televised forums, and a number of question and answer sessions, the two groups, as well as members of the SBC, the School Committee, town officials, and volunteers all tried to inform the general public on the various views of the project, and many in the school community attributed the victory to those efforts.

"I think the proponents, led by the CARE group, did an absolutely excellent job of informing the community and getting the word out," said Roger Sanstead, one member of the SBC. "I think it is a project that Reading can be proud of."

Russell Graham, Chairman of the SBC, said "I'm delighted that once the word got out as to what it meant, the people showed up to support it."

Jeff Struble, also a member of the SBC, indicated that the results made him think more people realized how important the vote was to the town.

"The turnout showed that a lot of people woke up to the importance of it," said Struble. who also described the vote as a "rite of passage" for the town.

"You always hear that

Turnout...

Continued from Page 1

turnout, with the pro-school vote increasing by almost two thousand votes over last year's numbers (4,564 yes votes this year, compared to 2,580 last year).

Town Clerk Cheryl Johnson said that there were no long lines at the polls at any one time, but rather a steady stream throughout the day.

"There was no one time when a lot of people showed up," said Johnson. "It was steady all day. I think that the workers did an excellent job today."

There had been fears by some that because of the tone of some recent 'Letters to the Editor' on the issue and discussions during two televised forums, that there may be problems at the polls between representatives of both groups, but Johnson reports there were no problems.

"We were expecting problems, so we had extra people watching to make sure nothing did," said Johnson. "Everyone was great, and we had no problems."

Selectman George Hines was at the polls last night as the results were being announced, and said he wasn't surprised that there weren't any problems.

"This is Reading," said Hines. "The best part of today was the great turnout. The community had its say, and that's our democracy at work."

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TOWN MANAGER
(781) 942-9043

Dear Reading Residents:

As we enter into the last year of the Millennium, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the Town of Reading for the calendar year 1998.

As you are probably aware, in addition to this "Long Report," a summary Annual Report has been sent to all residents of the community in the Reading Notes in February 1999. We are proud of the Reading Notes publication as a means of improving communication between the Reading Town government and all of our residents.

Obviously, this "Long Report" has a lot more detailed information on the community. In addition to this report, the Reading Municipal Light Department has prepared a separate Annual Report which is available from their offices at 230 Ash Street in Reading.

1998 was again a very busy year for your Town government. Construction on the new Reading Police Station, and a major expansion and renovation of the Coolidge Middle School got underway this year. Town Meeting also approved major work on an existing elementary school (the Barrows School), and the construction of a new elementary school. However, these approvals were overturned by the voters in early 1999. The elementary school enrollment issue will need to be addressed in 1999.

In addition to the physical part of the community, we continue to maintain financial stability, although that stability is under some stress because of a reduction in anticipated State aid for FY 2000 as well as an increasing demand for services.

High quality services continue to be the norm in Reading in all other areas of your government as measured by excellent school test scores, low crime rate, outstanding community health, award winning Library services, well maintained parks and cemeteries, well respected fire and EMT services, and continuing excellent services in all areas of the community.

The more we achieve as a community, the higher our expectations. When the parks maintenance programs get better, we wonder why we don't have more parks; when the Library wins awards, we want the Library to be open more hours; when we get a Home Page for Town government, we want to be able to conduct all of our business with Town government over the Internet. As a community government, we want to provide these services to our residents but we often do not have the resources to do so -- but as a community, we continue to try.

With all of the ups and downs that we go through as a community, we remain a very strong and vital place to live. Our employees and volunteers continue to give outstanding service to the community in all areas.

This is a very special year coming up – the end of a Millennium – and the beginning of a new Millennium. The Board of Selectmen has established a Committee to help the community celebrate the Millennium on December 31, 1999, and we hope that we will be able to recreate some of the success and good feeling of our 350th Anniversary Celebration in 1994.

On behalf of all of the Town staff and volunteers, we wish you a very successful 1999, and hope to be able to join you for the Millennium Celebration.

Sincerely,

Peter I. Hechenbleikner
Town Manager

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

Accounting

The Accounting Department is responsible for ensuring that all financial transactions of the Town are in compliance with legal requirements, and are properly recorded on a timely basis. Additionally, the Accounting Department maintains all financial records of the Town in order to develop all of the financial reports and schedules that are required to provide meaningful and accurate information for decision making.

Assessment

Assessment of property is the first step in the process of tax revenue collection for the Town of Reading. The Assessment Division's function is to provide for the fair and equitable assessment of all taxable real and personal property. The Assessors trend the values each year so that the official revaluations done every three years (occurring in Fiscal Year 1999) won't have such dramatic changes. The Assessors must annually determine the tax levy and obtain State approval of the tax rate so that the bills can be issued in a timely manner.

The tax rate for Fiscal 1999 was set at $15.89 per thousand, a decrease of $0.24 per thousand over the Fiscal 1998 rate of $16.13 per thousand. The total assessed value of all of the 8000+ properties in the Town of Reading for Fiscal 1999 is $1,804,314,100. The tax rate went down because the total valuations rose so much.

The breakdown of property by types and percentages is as follows:

Residential	$1,640,429,200	90.9170 %
Commercial	129,868,300	7.1977 %
Industrial	17,590,200	.9749 %
Personal	16,426,400	.9104 %

Since the Town's residential property is over 90% of the value, the Board of Assessors again recommended and the Board of Selectmen concurred that it is wise to keep the tax rate the same for all classes of property. Shifting of the tax burden to commercial properties would be a large burden to the businesses, with little tax relief for individual property owners. At the classification hearing, the Board of Selectmen also decided not to shift the tax burden within the residential class to non-residential owners, or to adopt a small commercial property exemption.

Collection of Taxes

The Town Collection function reduced the total of delinquent, liened and deferred real estate taxes to the level of delinquents in 1989. The total outstanding property taxes in the three categories was $815,000 at the end of Fiscal Year 1998, 17 % of which were deferred taxes and will be collected upon the sale of the property.

Lien Certificate activity increased in Fiscal 1998, with a total of 1700 certificates processed which netted $43,318 to the general fund. Brisk sales of real estate and favorable interest rates for refinancing were responsible for the requests for certificates.

Excise tax collections of $2,245,185 brought considerable revenue to the Town. The non-renewal of licenses and registrations at the Registry of Motor Vehicles when excise taxes are delinquent is a very effective tool in excise collections.

Technology

The Technology Division serves all Town Departments, including those at Town Hall, School, Library, Fire and Police. The Town is currently completing a fiber optic cable linkage of the Town Hall, Library and Police and Fire Stations in a Wide Area Network (WAN). The Public Works and Municipal Light Departments provided the expertise and labor to accomplish this task.

The Town's Web Page is being updated with current information such as the values of Town properties. The address for those who would like to access it is: http://www.ci.reading.ma.us

Personnel

The Finance Department administers personnel for the Town under the direction of the Town Manager, and for the School Department under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools. Retiree and Light Department personnel issues are also handled.

Employee benefits administered through the Division consist of health insurance, deferred compensation, cafeteria benefits, disability insurance, Sick Leave Bank, Workers' Compensation, Employee Assistance Program and personal leave. Workers' Compensation and Health Insurance are handled through a premium-based program at MIIA, the Massachusetts Inter-Local Insurance Association. Blue Cross/Blue Shield products offered to Town employees experienced a 5.0 % increase in rates on March 1, 1998, and will increase by 4.3 % on March 1, 1999.

Treasurer

Interest earnings rates for money markets ranged from 4.0 % to 5.46 % for the 1998 Fiscal Year with the major deposits cash being invested at 5.46 %. Long term investments ranged from 5.56 % to 5.76 %. Total interest earnings on the general fund were $773,197. No deposits of more than 10 % of the Town's uncollateralized cash were held in a single financial institution, and only $2,066,545 of the Town's $18,333,337 general fund cash at year's end was uncollateralized.

The Town Treasurer borrowed permanently a total of $11,250,000 in July of 1998. The general obligation bonds sold with an interest rate of 4.5592 %. Moody's and Standard and Poor's continued to rate the Town's bonds AA. The AA's reflect the strong financial management in the Town and the Light Department, the Town's strong property values, and its favorable location.

The bond sale was for the Parker Middle School ($7,750,000); Reading Memorial High School Repairs ($1,850,000); Birch Meadow, Joshua Eaton and High School Repairs ($1,650,000). State reimbursement for Parker is slated to begin in FY 1999, one year earlier than anticipated. Temporary borrowing for Coolidge Middle School and the Town Police Station in the amount of $5,000,000 was at rates ranging from 3.25 % to 4.00 %.

The Town's Trust Fund Commissioners continued to expand the Reading Response Program which provides skilled health care services, respite care, medical transportation, and Lifeline emergency call systems to Reading citizens who meet specific health and income guidelines. A total of $294,029 was dispersed from the Hospital Trust funds in FY 1998 to aid Reading's citizens.

Disbursements from the Library trust funds amounted to $17,339 in FY 1998 for items voted by the Library Trustees for Library purposes. Scholarships and awards to students from the income of Scholarship Trusts were in the amount of $5,675. New cemetery bequests were $90,850 in FY 1998 with $94,885 transferred to the Town for cemetery upkeep, and $142,311 earned in investment income for the cemetery funds.

The Trust Fund Commissioners, by law, may invest trust funds in stocks and bonds as well as money market funds. Through the Commissioners' expertise and good judgment, the total portfolio earned $404,912 or an average of approximately 7 % on a cash basis.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Trust Funds
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Balance July 1, 1997		Receipts			Disbursements		Balance June 30, 1998	
	Non-expendable	Expendable	Bequests and Contributions	Investment Income	Other	Expenditures	Transfers Out	Non-expendable	Expendable
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Cemetery funds:									
Charles Lawn	242,482	102,304	25,410	25,639			18,028	267,892	109,915
Forest Glen	588,974	402,583	3,240	70,411			47,443	592,214	425,551
Laurel Hill	278,685	336,296	1,000	43,613			29,414	279,685	350,495
Wood End			61,200	2,648				61,200	2,648
Total cemetery funds	1,110,141	841,183	90,850	142,311			94,885	1,200,991	888,609
Hospital funds:									
Stephen Foster	3,872	43,392		3,404				3,872	46,796
Anne S. Grouard	75,000	1,401,072		106,313				75,000	1,507,385
Gilman L. Parker	35,000	1,794,490		118,624		294,029		35,000	1,619,085
Total hospital funds	113,872	3,238,954		228,341		294,029		113,872	3,173,266
Library funds:									
Appleton / Mansfield	11,000	12,062		1,430		6,781		11,000	6,711
Edward Appleton	5,000	13,379		1,323				5,000	14,702
R / M Babcock	3,598	3,987		547				3,598	4,534
Stephen Foster	12,000	18,282		2,157		981		12,000	19,458
Helen Symonds		520		34		117			437
Charles Torrey	1,000	2,369		243				1,000	2,612
Donald Tuttle	500	1,053		112				500	1,165
Sumner Noyes		3,569		216		1,474			2,311
James and Freda Rawstron	1,613	635		162				1,613	797
Elaine and George Long	5,000	1,966		502				5,000	2,468
Barbara Hewitt	8,952	3,338		885				8,952	4,223
Roderick McKay		8,345		153		7,986			512
Karen Meek Zalubus		356		26					382
Bruce Morang		2,787		201					2,988
Total library funds	48,663	72,648		7,991		17,339		48,663	63,300

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Trust Funds
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Balance July 1, 1997		Receipts			Disbursements		Balance June 30, 1998	
	Non-expendable	Expendable	Bequests and Contributions	Investment Income	Other	Expenditures	Transfers Out	Non-expendable	Expendable
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Scholarship funds:									
Kenneth Brown	1,000	2,911		281		25		1,000	3,167
Nathaniel Hill	1,500	541		143		150		1,500	534
No. Residents Association	11,370	2,257		866		2,400		11,370	723
Gilman L. Parker	5,000	2,447		524		500		5,000	2,471
Torre		5,750		385		400			5,735
Carl Sawyer	5,000	1,965		465		500		5,000	1,930
Hal Croft	4,187	106	500	338		300		4,687	144
Florence Nichols	16,680	3,666		1,432		1,400		16,680	3,698
Exemplary teacher award:									
Arnold Berger	6,856	713		515		500		6,856	728
Education loan fund:									
Winthrop Parker	11,936			783				12,719	
Total education funds	63,529	20,356	500	5,732		6,175		64,812	19,130
Elder services:									
Avis E. Schroeder	10,000	6,049		1,142		316		10,000	6,875
Dorothy Burbank			211,205	12,608					223,813
Celebration funds:									
General		42,867		3,049		1,584			44,332
400 th celebration		6,100		440					6,540
Historical preservation funds:									
General		38,921	2,683	2,872		2,505			41,971
400 th celebration		6,100		426					6,526
Conservation fund		1,736		111		636			1,211
Worker compensation fund		96,223		4,519	260,938	223,905			137,775
Municipal light pension fund		8,932,702	72,737	555,914		669,355			8,891,998
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total trust funds	1,346,205	13,303,839	377,975	965,456	260,938	1,215,844	94,885	1,438,338	13,505,346

REPORT OF THE TOWN COLLECTOR
12 MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 1998

1998 REAL ESTATE

Committed April 1, 1997	27,667,073.55	
Refunds	95,553.41	
Interest & Costs Collected	30,586.67	
Abatements		150,706.52
Paid to Treasurer		27,254,983.19
Deferred		31,005.53
Tax Title		163,777.06
Uncollected June 30, 1998		192,741.33
	27,793,213.63	27,793,213.63

1997 REAL ESTATE

Balance July 1, 1997	241,466.71	
Refunds	49,890.39	
Interest & Costs	26,141.05	
Abatements		19,395.46
Paid to Treasurer		298,102.69
	317,498.15	317,498.15

1998 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Committed June 30, 1997	216,487.70	
Refunds	384.18	
Interest & Costs Collected	357.05	
Abatements		59.68
Paid to Treasurer		213,884.26
Uncollected June 30, 1998		3,284.99
	217,228.93	217,228.93

1997 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Balance July 1, 1997	2,466.32	
Interest & Costs Collected	138.74	
Paid to Treasurer		1,395.13
Uncollected June 30, 1998		1,209.93
	2,605.06	2,605.06

1996 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Balance July 1, 1997	3,926.12	
Interest & Costs Collected	118.74	
Paid to Treasurer		498.98
Uncollected June 30, 1998		3,545.88
	4,044.86	4,044.86

1995 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Balance June 30, 1997	4,933.27	
Interest & Costs Collected	65.87	
Paid to Treasurer		208.29
Uncollected June 30, 1998		4,790.85
	4,999.14	4,999.14

1994 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Balance June 30, 1997	4,676.11	
Interest & Costs Collected	78.76	
Paid to Treasurer		204.62
Uncollected June 30, 1998		4,550.25
	4,754.87	4,754.87

1998 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Committed Feb. 1998	2,106,177.61	
Refunds	16,599.86	
Interest & Costs Collected	8,036.26	
Abatements		166,534.43
Paid to Treasurer		1,918,837.56
Uncollected June 30, 1998		45,441.74
	2,130,813.73	2,130,813.73

1997 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Balance July 1, 1997	78,595.41	
Committed March 1997	282,298.76	
Refunds	30,831.43	
Interest & Costs Collected	6,733.88	
Abatements		32,187.07
Paid to Treasurer		350,692.11
Uncollected June 30, 1998		15,580.30
	398,459.48	398,459.48

1996 MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE

Balance July 1, 1997	62,302.64	
Refunds	2,452.42	
Interest & Costs Collected	3,292.81	
Abatements		2,452.42
Paid to Treasurer		24,017.84
Uncollected June 30, 1998		41,577.61
	68,047.87	68,047.87

OLD EXCISE PRIOR TO 1995

Old Excise	7,241.00	
Paid to Treasurer		7,241.00
	7,241.00	7,241.00

WATER CHARGES

Balance July 1, 1997	191,544.16	
Committed 1997	2,493,736.29	
Refunds	1,231.67	
Abatements		10,996.84
Paid to Treasurer		2,183,810.56
Discount for Timely Payments		206,419.80
Added to 1998 Taxes		87,892.38
Uncollected June 30, 1998		197,392.54
	2,686,512.12	2,686,512.12

SEWER CHARGES

Balance July 1, 1997	243,500.20	
Committed 1997	3,750,618.51	
Refunds	1,836.99	
Abatements		11,136.50
Paid to Treasurer		3,283,462.50
Discount for Timely Payments		312,772.40
Added to Taxes 1998		109,933.20
Uncollected June 30, 1998		278,651.10
	3,995,955.70	3,995,955.70

ADDITIONAL WATER CHARGES
(SPMS, SPCS-SPRINKLERS)

Balance July 1, 1997	651.09	
Committed 1997	44,510.71	
Refunds	3,289.05	
Paid to Treasurer		46,997.10
Added to Taxes 1998		621.64
Uncollected June 30, 1998		832.11
	48,450.85	48,450.85

PERMITS

Permits Issued:		
Building	111,853.56	
Electric	19,541.50	
Gas	6,375.00	
Plumbing	15,983.00	
Certificate of Inspection	900.00	
	154,653.06	
Paid to Treasurer		154,653.06

CERTIFICATE OF MUNICIPAL LIENS

Certificates and Releases	43,317.00	
Paid to Treasurer		43,317.00

BETTERMENTS ADDED TO TAXES

Committed 1997	1,866.68	
Paid to Treasurer		1,866.68

TOWN OF READING
REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS
FOR PERIOD 01-JAN-98 TO 31-DEC-98

739	7	MOONEY KENNETH J	SANBORN LN	240.79	15-JAN-98
1996 ABATEMENTS: 1			AMOUNT:	240.79	
35	1	ASMUSSEN FREDRICK A	WOBURN ST	22.58	25-FEB-98
56	5	BAY BANK MIDDLESEX	MAIN ST	1,261.37	15-APR-98
56	6	BAY BANK MIDDLESEX	MAIN ST	632.30	15-APR-98
64	4	BELLISTRI JODY	SUMMER AVE	59.68	05-MAY-98
86	5	BORAK GARY P	DANA RD	332.28	11-MAR-98
144	6	CANN JOHN W	EASTWAY	222.59	25-FEB-98
147	5	CARCEO RICHARD T	CARNATION CIR	166.14	02-JUN-98
198	7	COLUMBUS STEPHEN	BROOK ST	496.80	11-MAR-98
233	5	CROWLEY JOHN P	EMERSON ST	74.20	04-MAR-98
243	4	CUSOLITO ROBERT P	GRANDVIEW RD	324.21	05-FEB-98
291	4	DIROCCO STEPHEN J	PINE RIDGE RD	560.47	25-MAR-98
341	6	ENGLUND CLIFTON P	SOUTH ST	400.02	05-MAY-98
363	5	FERULLO MARIANNE C	PRESCOTT ST	46.78	02-APR-98
377	3	FLYNN JENNIFER L	HARVARD ST	12.90	15-APR-98
447	4	GREGORIO NICHOLAS J	BANCROFT AVE	96.78	05-MAY-98
453	7	GUARINO DAVID M	HAVERHILL ST	58.07	15-APR-98
478	5	HART ALFRED L	HANSCOM AVE	72.59	15-APR-98
478	6	HART CHERI A	WEST ST	72.59	15-APR-98
479	5	HARTFORD MICHAEL	LILAH LN	209.69	15-APR-98
490	2	HENNINGS THOMAS	BELMONT ST	211.30	25-FEB-98
490	3	HENNINGS THOMAS	BELMONT ST	320.99	25-FEB-98
507	7	HORNE JOHN E	EASTWAY	91.94	05-MAY-98
519	1	HUMPHREYS HOLLY V	BRIARWOOD AVE	50.00	05-MAY-98
529	6	IODICE MICHAEL F JR TR	LAKEVIEW AVE	2,327.56	12-FEB-98
578	3	KILEY ROBERT J TR	GOULD ST	1,206.52	26-MAR-98
605	1	LANTZAKIS THEODORE	SANBORN LN	232.27	29-APR-98
629	7	LICHOULAS RITA TR	HOPKINS ST	2,624.35	22-SEP-98
641	3	LOSINGER CHARLES M	GAVIN CIR	232.27	15-JAN-98
678	7	MARGOSSIAN WILLARD Z	PASTURE RD	161.30	22-SEP-98
713	7	MCKEON MATTHEW E	MAIN ST	29.03	26-MAR-98
739	6	MILANO DANIEL	LILAH LN	254.85	15-APR-98
752	1	MOONEY KENNETH J	SANBORN LN	170.98	15-APR-98
792	2	NIGRO EUGENE A	OFF COUNTY RD	656.49	05-MAY-98
813	5	OKEEFE RONALD T	BATCHELDER RD	9.68	04-MAR-98
865	5	POWER EDWARD	JOHN ST	125.81	05-MAY-98
889	6	READING BEAR HILL LIMITED	HOPKINS ST	927.98	29-APR-98
889	2	READING BEAR HILL LIMITED	HOPKINS ST	16.74	29-APR-98
903	1	RICHARDS DONALD T	SANBORN ST	32.26	29-APR-98
909	5	RIORDAN MICHAEL J	HIGHLAND ST	258.08	05-MAY-98
935	4	RUSSELL ALFRED S	BELMONT ST	320.99	15-JAN-98
979	3	SHEN YUAN-SHOU	SHACKFORD RD	141.94	26-MAR-98
991	7	SLEZAK MICHAEL F	PROSPECT ST	88.72	29-APR-98
1,052	7	TAYLOR CHARLES A JR	PLEASANT ST	61.29	25-FEB-98
1,087	5	VACCARO PHILIP N	MAIN ST	2,324.33	29-APR-98
1,138	4	WINDSHIELDS INC	MAIN ST	974.25	15-APR-98
1,154	6	ZAGER GREGORY J	DANA RD	96.78	15-APR-98
1998 ABATEMENTS: 46			AMOUNT:	19,070.74	
29	2	ANTON ARTHUR C	HARNDEN ST	187.99	16-DEC-98
1999 ABATEMENTS: 1			AMOUNT:	187.99	

KPMG

TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS

General Purpose Financial Statements,
Supplementary Schedules and Exhibit

Year Ended June 30, 1998

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS

General Purpose Financial Statements, Supplementary Schedules and Exhibit

Year Ended June 30, 1998

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KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

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Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Selectmen
Town of Reading, Massachusetts:

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, as listed in the accompanying table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund, which statements reflect total assets and revenues consisting of 80% and 91%, respectively, of the related proprietary fund types. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us and our opinion expressed herein, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Electric Enterprise Fund, is based solely upon the report of the other auditors.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. The financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The Town has not maintained records of the cost of its general fixed assets and, therefore, a general fixed assets account group is not presented in the accompanying general purpose financial statements as required by generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, based upon our audit and the report of the other auditors, except that the omission of a general fixed assets group of accounts results in an incomplete presentation, as discussed in the third paragraph, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts, at June 30, 1998, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary and nonexpendable trust funds for the applicable years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, except for the Electric Enterprise Fund, which is in conformity with the basis of accounting described in note 2.

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As discussed in Note 2 to the general purpose financial statements, the Town changed its method of accounting for investments to adopt the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 31.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report (Exhibit I) dated October 5, 1998, on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund statements listed in the accompanying table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

The historical pension information on pages 23 and 24 is not a required part of the general purpose financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures to this information, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

October 5, 1998

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Group
June 30, 1998
(except for the Electric Enterprise Fund, which is as of December 31, 1997)

Assets and Other Debits	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds	Electric Enterprise Fund	Trust and Agency Funds	General Long-term Debt	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Cash and investments (notes 5 and 6)	5,849,490	2,798,985	6,252,632	2,604,469	21,570,739	62,629,073	-	101,705,388
Investments with fiscal agents (notes 5 and 13)	-	-	-	-	-	4,602,860	-	4,602,860
Receivables:								
Property taxes (note 3):								
Delinquent	204,679	-	-	-	-	-	-	204,679
Subsequent year's levy	13,955,245	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,955,245
Deferred	136,924	-	-	3,473	-	-	-	140,397
Tax liens	472,659	-	-	84,969	-	-	-	557,628
Motor vehicle excise	67,814	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,814
User charges (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	-	-	-	1,800,000	1,682,725	-	-	3,482,725
Special assessments	19,753	-	-	5,630	-	-	-	25,383
Intergovernmental	50,000	25,346	478,123	-	-	-	-	553,469
Accrued interest	146,467	19,655	-	-	-	225,471	-	391,593
Other	222	-	-	-	191,523	1,600	-	193,345
Other assets	-	-	-	-	1,328,078	-	-	1,328,078
Inventory	-	-	-	71,656	904,558	-	-	976,214
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	-	134,905	-	-	134,905
Deferred charges	-	-	-	-	30,388	-	-	30,388
Property, plant and equipment - net (note 12)	-	-	-	9,649,805	31,856,509	-	-	41,506,314
Amount to be provided for retirement of general long-term obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,706,919	32,706,919
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total assets and other debits	20,903,253	2,843,986	6,730,755	14,220,002	57,699,425	67,459,004	32,706,919	202,563,344

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Group
June 30, 1998
(except for the Electric Enterprise Fund, which is as of December 31, 1997)

Liabilities and Fund Equity	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Group	
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds	Electric Enterprise Fund	Trust and Agency Funds	General Long-term Debt	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Liabilities:								
Warrants and accounts payable	842,163	88,418	722,501	306,837	4,806,078	35,372	-	6,801,369
Accrued liabilities:								
Payroll	704,306	24,822	-	-	-	-	-	729,128
Compensated absences	-	-	-	37,003	1,316,601	-	2,096,707	3,450,311
Interest on bonds payable	-	-	-	456	91,509	-	-	91,965
Landfill closure and postclosure care costs (note 17)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000,000	6,000,000
Other	-	-	-	-	299,818	94,560	-	394,378
Deferred revenue (note 3)	14,851,992	-	-	94,072	3,639,568	-	-	18,585,632
Deposits	-		-	-	787,819	-	-	787,819
Notes payable (notes 8 and 18)	-	-	5,907,000	-	-	-	10,550,000	16,457,000
Bonds payable (note 7)	-	-	-	56,788	4,943,000	-	14,060,212	19,060,000
Deferred compensation (note 13)	-	-	-	-	-	4,602,860	-	4,602,860
Total liabilities	16,398,461	113,240	6,629,501	495,156	15,884,393	4,732,792	32,706,919	76,960,462
Fund equity:								
Contributed capital	-	-	-	3,079,479	1,914,810	-	-	4,994,289
Retained earnings:								
Reserved	-	-	-	9,386,783	-	-	-	9,386,783
Unreserved	-	-	-	1,258,584	39,900,222	-	-	41,158,806
Fund balances:								
Reserved by state statute	920,537	-	-	-	-	-	-	920,537
Reserved for:								
Encumbrances	734,583	-		-	-	-	-	734,583
Endowments	-	-	-	-	-	1,438,338	-	1,438,338
Employees' pension benefits	-	-	-	-	-	46,776,559	-	46,776,559
Unreserved:								
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	878,730	173,075	-	-	-	131,261	-	1,183,066
Undesignated (note 10)	1,970,942	2,557,671	101,254	-	-	14,380,054	-	19,009,921
Total fund equity	4,504,792	2,730,746	101,254	13,724,846	41,815,032	62,726,212	-	125,602,882
Contingencies (notes 9 and 14)								
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total liabilities and fund equity	20,903,253	2,843,986	6,730,755	14,220,002	57,699,425	67,459,004	32,706,919	202,563,344

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balances - All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Expendable Trust Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	$	$	$	$	$
Revenues:					
Property taxes	27,623,433	-	-	-	27,623,433
Excise taxes	2,230,185	-	-	-	2,230,185
Penalties and interest on taxes	229,263	-	-	-	229,263
Payments in lieu of taxes	316,748	-	-	-	316,748
Charges for services	690,974	1,399,028	-	-	2,090,002
Licenses and permits	41,073	-	-	-	41,073
Intergovernmental	8,080,253	1,319,905	462,046	-	9,862,204
Special assessments	6,794	-	-	-	6,794
Fines	133,284	-	-	-	133,284
Investment income	765,182	116,101	-	1,432,757	2,314,040
Contributions and bequests	-	-	-	286,625	286,625
Other	2,904	221,456	-	260,938	485,298
Total revenues	40,120,093	3,056,490	462,046	1,980,320	45,618,949
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	2,409,744	34,986	-	636	2,445,366
Public safety	5,865,126	443,831	-	-	6,308,957
Education	21,657,033	1,757,258	-	6,175	23,420,466
Public works and facilities	3,391,999	33,587	-	-	3,425,586
Human services	318,277	81,835	-	294,345	694,457
Culture and recreation	721,661	282,406	-	21,428	1,025,495
Employee benefits	4,896,989	-	-	893,260	5,790,249
Intergovernmental	677,866	-	-	-	677,866
Capital outlay	-	-	3,884,888	-	3,884,888
Debt service	2,382,913	-	-	-	2,382,913
Total expenditures	42,321,608	2,633,903	3,884,888	1,215,844	50,056,243
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(2,201,515)	422,587	(3,422,842)	764,476	(4,437,294)
Other financing sources (uses):					
Proceeds from general obligation bonds	-	-	16,480,000	-	16,480,000
Operating transfers in (out) (note 11)	2,175,371	(650,668)	100,000	1,720	1,626,423
Total other financing sources (uses)	2,175,371	(650,668)	16,580,000	1,720	18,106,423
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(26,144)	(228,081)	13,157,158	766,196	13,669,129
Fund balances (deficits), beginning of year	4,530,936	2,958,827	(13,055,904)	13,303,839	7,737,698
Cumulative effect of change in value of investments to fair value	-	-	-	441,280	441,280
	$	$	$	$	$
Fund balances, end of year	4,504,792	2,730,746	101,254	14,511,315	21,848,107

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Budgetary Basis
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget	Actual	Variance - Favorable (Unfavorable)
	$	$	$
Revenues:			
Property taxes	27,224,112	27,102,131	(121,981)
Excise taxes	1,820,000	2,245,185	425,185
Penalties and interest on taxes	190,000	229,263	39,263
Payments in lieu of taxes	280,000	316,748	36,748
Charges for services	720,000	690,974	(29,026)
Licenses and permits	40,000	41,073	1,073
Intergovernmental	7,963,565	8,080,253	116,688
Special assessments	10,000	6,794	(3,206)
Fines	130,000	133,284	3,284
Investment income	820,000	773,197	(46,803)
Other	-	2,904	2,904
Total revenues	39,197,677	39,621,806	424,129
Expenditures:			
General government	2,297,113	2,220,150	76,963
Public safety	5,948,030	5,914,933	33,097
Education	21,670,153	21,638,660	31,493
Public works and facilities	3,610,331	3,539,307	71,024
Human services	320,702	309,507	11,195
Culture and recreation	749,320	749,290	30
Employee benefits	5,072,738	4,896,989	175,749
Intergovernmental	660,483	677,866	(17,383)
Debt service	2,483,639	2,382,913	100,726
Total expenditures	42,812,509	42,329,615	482,894
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(3,614,832)	(2,707,809)	907,023
Other financing sources (uses):			
Transfers from (to):			
Special revenue funds	750,667	650,668	(99,999)
Capital projects funds	(100,000)	(100,000)	-
Enterprise funds	1,529,818	1,529,818	-
Trust funds	94,885	94,885	-
Total other financing sources (uses)	2,275,370	2,175,371	(99,999)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	$ (1,339,462)	$ (532,438)	$ 807,024

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Equity -
All Proprietary Fund Types and Similar Trust Funds
Year ended June 30, 1998
(except for the Electric Enterprise Fund, which is for year ended December 31, 1997)

	Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types		
	Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds	Electric Enterprise Fund	Employee Retirement Trust Fund	Nonexpendable Trust Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	$	$	$	$	$
Operating revenues:					
Charges for services	5,651,470	58,752,759	-	-	64,404,229
Special assessments	2,785	-	-	-	2,785
Investment income	-	-	7,393,022	97,388	7,490,410
Contributions - employer	-	-	3,222,164	-	3,222,164
Contributions - employee	-	-	1,213,357	-	1,213,357
Other	-	-	-	91,350	91,350
Total operating revenues	5,654,255	58,752,759	11,828,543	188,738	76,424,295
Operating expenses:					
Personal services	745,720	-	28,927	-	774,647
Fringe benefits	180,876	-	-	-	180,876
Energy purchases	181,123	-	-	-	181,123
Intergovernmental	2,659,588	-	-	-	2,659,588
Depreciation	612,551	2,656,276	-	-	3,268,827
Benefit payments	-	-	3,663,596	-	3,663,596
Refunds	-	-	229,322	-	229,322
Other	1,028,106	-	11,113	-	1,039,219
Electric operations - personal services and other	-	54,040,978	-	-	54,040,978
Total operating expenses	5,407,964	56,697,254	3,932,958	-	66,038,176
Operating income	246,291	2,055,505	7,895,585	188,738	10,386,119
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):					
Gain on disposal of plant and equipment	-	(242,417)	-	-	(242,417)
Investment income	42,895	991,983	-	-	1,034,878
Interest expense	(5,191)	(325,080)	-	-	(330,271)
Net nonoperating revenues	37,704	424,486	-	-	462,190
Income before operating transfers	283,995	2,479,991	7,895,585	188,738	10,848,309
Operating transfers (out) (note 11)	-	(1,529,818)	-	(96,605)	(1,626,423)
Net income	283,995	950,173	7,895,585	92,133	9,221,886
Fund equity, beginning of year	13,440,851	40,660,595	38,880,974	1,346,205	94,328,625
Contributions from customers	-	204,264	-	-	204,264
Fund equity, end of year	$ 13,724,846	$ 41,815,032	$ 46,776,559	$ 1,438,338	$ 103,754,775

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Combined Statement of Cash Flows -
All Proprietary Fund Types and Nonexpendable Trust Funds
Year ended June 30, 1998
(except for the Electric Enterprise Fund, which is for year ended December 31, 1997)

	Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	
	Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds	Electric Enterprise Fund	Nonexpendable Trust Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	$	$	$	$
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Operating income	246,291	2,055,505	188,738	2,490,534
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation	612,551	2,656,276	-	3,268,827
Changes in assets and liabilities:				
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable (net) and other assets	124,572	401,019	(1,000)	524,591
Decrease in prepaid expenses	-	521,091	-	521,091
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(17,760)	(107,476)	-	(125,236)
Increase in warrants and accounts payable	181,657	832,307	-	1,013,964
Increase (decrease) in compensated absences	(4,592)	183,700	-	179,108
Increase in deposits	-	112,021	-	112,021
Increase in other accrued liabilities	-	67,536	-	67,536
Increase in deferred revenues	14,428	1,454,619	-	1,469,047
Reclassification of investment earnings	-	-	(97,388)	(97,388)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,157,147	8,176,598	90,350	9,424,095
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:				
Interest paid on deposits	-	(42,898)	-	(42,898)
Operating transfers to other funds	-	(1,529,818)	(96,605)	(1,626,423)
Net cash (used) by noncapital financing activities	-	(1,572,716)	(96,605)	(1,669,321)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(779,775)	(4,460,167)	-	(5,239,942)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	(242,417)	-	(242,417)
Principal payments - bonds	(59,000)	(808,000)	-	(867,000)
Interest paid	(5,666)	(287,621)	-	(293,287)
Contributions from customers	-	204,264	-	204,264
Net cash (used) for capital and related financing activities	(844,441)	(5,593,941)	-	(6,438,382)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Interest on investments	42,895	991,983	97,388	1,132,266
Net cash provided by investing activities	42,895	991,983	97,388	1,132,266
Net increase in cash and investments	355,601	2,001,924	91,133	2,448,658
Cash and investments, beginning of year	2,248,868	19,568,815	1,345,605	23,163,288
	$	$	$	$
Cash and investments, end of year	2,604,469	21,570,739	1,436,738	25,611,946

See accompanying notes to general purpose financial statements.

Note 1. Reporting Entity

The Town of Reading is governed by an elected five-member Board of Selectmen. Generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") requires that the accompanying general purpose financial statements present the Town of Reading (the primary government) and its component units. Component units are included in the Town's reporting entity if their operational and financial relationships with the Town are significant. Pursuant to this criteria, the Town of Reading Retirement System (the "System") has been identified as a component unit. The System was established under the authority of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and is an independent contributory retirement system available to employees of the Town. The powers of the System are vested in the Retirement Board. The System has been blended into the Town's Fiduciary Funds for reporting purposes.

The Town has entered into several joint ventures with other municipalities to pool resources and share the costs, risks, and rewards of providing goods or services to venture participants directly, or for the benefit of the general public or specified service recipients. The following is a list of the Town's joint ventures, their purpose, the address where the joint venture financial statements are available, and the fiscal 1998 assessment.

Joint Ventures	Purpose	Address	Fiscal 1998 Assessment $
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)	To provide sewer service	100 First Avenue Boston, MA 02129	2,624,940
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	To provide public transportation	10 Park Plaza Boston, MA 02116	599,184
Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District	To provide vocational education	100 Hemlock Road Wakefield, MA 01880	94,352

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Presentation

The financial condition and results of operations of the Town's funds are presented as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, except for the Town's Electric Enterprise Fund which is presented as of and for the year ended December 31, 1997. The accounting policies of the Town conform with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), except that the Town does not maintain, and therefore does not report, a general fixed assets account group. Such a departure from GAAP is permissible under the Massachusetts Uniform Municipal Accounting System.

The financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund are prepared on the basis of accounting prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) which requires that certain items be charged or credited directly to retained earnings. GAAP would require the same items to be charged or credited to operations. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with GAAP.

(b) Fund Accounting

Transactions are recorded in the funds and account group described below. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures and other financing sources and uses. Transactions between funds within a fund type have been eliminated. The funds and account group are organized into four categories as follows:

Governmental Fund Types

Governmental Funds are those through which most governmental functions are financed. The acquisition, use and balances of expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds. The measurement focus is on determination of changes in financial position, rather than on net income. The governmental fund types are as follows:

General Fund - This fund is the general operating fund of the Town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Special Revenue Funds - These funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than expendable trusts or capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

Capital Projects Funds - These funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds and trust funds). Such resources are derived principally from proceeds of general obligation bonds and from federal and state grants.

Proprietary Fund Types

These funds are used to account for activities that are similar to those often found in the private sector. The measurement focus is upon determination of net income and capital maintenance.

Fiduciary Fund Types

Fiduciary Funds are used to account for assets held in a trustee capacity (Trust Funds) or as an agent (Agency Funds) for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and/or other funds. Trust funds include expendable trust funds, nonexpendable trust funds and pension trust funds.

Account Group

The general long-term obligations account group is used to establish control and accountability for all long-term obligations of the Town, except those accounted for in proprietary funds.

(c) Basis of Accounting

Governmental fund types, expendable trust funds and agency funds are accounted for on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded in the accounting period when susceptible to accrual (i.e., both measurable and available). Available means expected to be collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. In applying this principle, the Town accrues as revenue the amount of taxes due to the Town prior to year-end and collected within 60 days after the end of its fiscal year. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred except for interest on general long-term obligations, which is recorded when due and the noncurrent portion of accrued sick leave which is recorded in the general long-term obligations account group.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, capital outlay and principal payments on long-term debt are recorded as expenditures when purchased or when due, respectively.

The Town has elected to apply to its proprietary funds, nonexpendable trust funds, and pension trust funds accounting standards applicable to the private sector issued on or before November 20, 1989, unless those standards conflict with or contradict pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

(d) Pooled Cash

The Town pools cash resources of its governmental type funds, Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds and agency funds to facilitate the management of cash. Each fund presents its pro rata share of the combined cash account as cash and investments in the accompanying general purpose financial statements.

(e) Investment Valuation

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Statement No. 31 the investments are carried at fair value. The Town invests in the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust and the Pension Reserves Investment Trust which are external pools that are not SEC registered. These funds are state regulated and are valued at current share price.

(f) Accrued Sick and Vacation

Employee vacation leave is vested annually but may not be carried forward to succeeding fiscal years. Generally, sick leave may accumulate indefinitely, of which a maximum of 100 days may be paid upon termination at 50% of the current rate of pay for those not exempted. The Town's policy is to recognize vacation costs at the time payments are made. The Town records accumulated unused vested sick pay as a liability in the general long-term obligations account group and the proprietary fund types. The amount recorded is the maximum amount to be paid at termination at 50% of the current rate of pay.

(g) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue is recognized for receivables which are not available to finance current operations.

(h) Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which contracts and other commitments for expenditure of funds are recorded to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is employed in the governmental fund types as a significant aspect of budgetary control.

Encumbrances are reported as reservations of fund balances in the accompanying combined balance sheet because they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities. Encumbrances are combined with expenditures for budgetary comparison purposes (see note 4).

(i) Retained Earnings

In accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53F1/2 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town accounts for its Water and Sewer Funds as enterprise funds. The reserved portion of the Water and Sewer Funds represents the amount of fund equity, which is not available for appropriation in accordance with statutory requirements.

(j) Fund Balance

The Town has allocated fund balances of its governmental and trust funds as follows:

Reserved by State Statute - Represents the amount of fund balance which is not available for appropriation in accordance with statutory requirements.

Reserved for Encumbrances - Represents the amount of unexpended appropriations carried forward to fiscal year 1999 for projects which have not been completed, open purchase orders and for contracts which have not been performed.

Reserved for Endowments - Represents the amount of Trust Fund fund balance which is legally restricted to endowment purposes.

Reserved for Employees' Pension Benefits - Represents the amount of funds accumulated in the Contributory Retirement System.

Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures - Represents the amount of fund balance voted at Town Meeting to fund fiscal year 1999 appropriations.

Unreserved Fund Balances (Undesignated) - Represents the amount of funds available for appropriation at Town Meeting or for expenditure in accordance with legal restrictions for certain special revenue and trust funds.

(k) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment of the proprietary funds are recorded at cost. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets for Water and Sewer funds as follows:

Plant and buildings	10 – 50 years
Water and sewer lines	20 – 50 years
Equipment and fixtures	5 – 20 years

Depreciation expense on municipal contributed property, plant and equipment is shown as a reduction of municipal contributed capital of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds whereas depreciation expense on purchased property, plant and equipment is shown as a reduction of retained earnings. Depreciation expense of $278,624 was charged directly to the municipal contributed capital of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds. Depreciation was the only transaction affecting the municipal contributed capital of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds. Depreciation on property, plant and equipment of the Electric Enterprise Fund is computed based on statutory rates which may be adjusted upon receiving approval from the DPU.

(l) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market in proprietary funds. Inventory of governmental funds is not material and the purchase method of accounting is used in such funds.

(m) Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund to conform with the Town's presentation.

(n) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(o) Total (Memorandum Only) Columns

Total (memorandum only) columns on the general purpose financial statements are presented to aggregate financial data of the fund types and account group. No consolidating or eliminating entries were made in arriving at the totals; thus, they do not present consolidated information in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Note 3. Property Taxes

Real and personal property taxes are based on values assessed as of the prior January 1 and are due in quarterly installments on August 1st, November 1st, February 1st and May 1st. By law, all taxable property in the Commonwealth must be assessed at approximately 100% of fair cash value. Taxes due and unpaid after the respective due dates are subject to interest and penalties. The Town has an ultimate right to foreclose on property for which taxes have not been paid. Property taxes levied are recorded as receivables in the fiscal year billed. As of June 30, 1998, the Town has billed its first quarterly installment of the fiscal year 1999 real estate tax bills. The gross amount of the billing is shown as subsequent year's levy and deferred revenue in the accompanying combined balance sheet. Property tax revenues are recorded in accordance with the modified accrual basis of accounting described in note 2.

A statewide tax limitation statute known as "Proposition 2-1/2" limits the property tax levy to an amount equal to 2-1/2% of the value of all taxable property in the Town. A secondary limitation is that no levy in a fiscal year may exceed the preceding year's allowable tax levy by more than 2-1/2%, plus taxes levied on certain property newly added to the tax rolls. Certain Proposition 2-1/2 taxing limitations can be overridden by a Town-wide referendum vote.

Note 4. Budgetary Basis of Accounting

The Town must establish its property tax rate each year so that the resulting property tax levy will comply with the limits required by Proposition 2-1/2 and also constitute that amount which will equal the sum of (a) the aggregate of all annual appropriations for expenditures, state and county assessments, provision for property tax abatements and exemptions, and transfers, plus (b) provision for the prior fiscal year's deficits, if any, less (c) the aggregate of all non-property tax revenues and transfers projected to be received by the Town, including available surplus funds.

Under the Town's charter, the budgets for all departments and operations of the Town, except that of public schools, are prepared under the direction of the Town Manager. The School Department budget is prepared under the direction of the School Committee. The Finance Committee then presents its recommendations on the budget at Town Meeting. Original and supplemental appropriations are acted upon by Town Meeting vote.

The Town's General Fund budget is prepared on a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The "actual" results column of the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Budgetary Basis is presented on a "budget basis" to provide a meaningful comparison with the budget. The major differences between the budget and GAAP bases are that:

(a) Budgeted revenues are recorded when current year levy cash is received, as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP).

(b) Encumbrances are recorded as the equivalent of expenditures (budget) as opposed to a reservation of fund balance (GAAP).

(c) Claims are recorded as expenditures when paid (budget), as opposed to a liability when settled (GAAP).

The following reconciliation summarizes the differences between budget and GAAP basis accounting principles for the year ended June 30, 1998:

	$
Deficiency of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures – budgetary basis	(532,438)
Adjustments:	
Revenues to modified accrual basis (net)	498,287
Prior year encumbrances expended in fiscal year 1998	(661,760)
Current year encumbrances included as expenditures for budget presentation	669,767
Deficiency of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses – GAAP basis	$ (26,144)

Note 5. Cash and Investments

State and local statutes place certain limitations on the nature of deposits and investments available to the Town. Deposits (including demand deposits, term deposits and certificates of deposit) in any one financial institution may not exceed certain levels without collateralization by the financial institutions involved. Investments can also be made in securities issued by or unconditionally guaranteed by the US government or agencies that have a maturity of less than one year from the date of purchase, repurchase agreements guaranteed by the US government or agencies that have a maturity of less than one year from the date of purchase, repurchase agreements guaranteed by such securities with maturity dates of no more than 90 days from the date of purchase and units in the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust ("MMDT") and the Pension Reserves Investment Trust ("PRIT"). In addition, the Town's trust funds have additional investment powers, most notably the ability to invest in common stocks, corporate bonds and other specified investments.

Cash

The following summary presents the amount of Town deposits which are fully insured or collateralized with securities held by the Town or its agent in the Town's name (Category 1), those deposits which are collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Town's name (Category 2), and those deposits which are not collateralized (Category 3). All deposits are categorized as Category 1 or Category 3 on June 30, 1998. The carrying amount of the Electric Enterprise Fund in the accompanying general purpose financial statements is as of December 31, 1997, which is $4,804,975 more than the carrying amount at June 30, 1998.

	Category #1	Category #3	Total Bank Balance	Carrying Amount
	$	$	$	$
Bank deposits	1,331,654	3,443,116	4,774,770	3,790,774
Petty cash	2,640	-	2,640	2,640
	$	$	$	$
Total cash	1,334,294	3,443,116	4,777,410	3,793,414

Investments

The Town categorizes investments according to the level of risk assumed by the Town. Category 1 includes investments that are insured, registered or held by the Town's agent in the Town's name. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered investments held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Town's name. Category 3 includes uninsured and unregistered investments held by the counterparty, its trust department or its agent, but not in the Town's name. Investments in MMDT, PRIT and pooled funds are not categorized. All other investments are categorized as category 1. The Town's investments are carried at fair value. Pooled funds (deferred compensation) are carried at fair value. PRIT funds (System assets) are carried at fair value.

	Category #1	Not Categorized	Fair Value
	$	$	$
Common and preferred stock	1,334,093	-	1,334,093
Corporate bonds and notes	6,181,978	-	6,181,978
US Government obligations	2,373,335	-	2,373,335
US Government agency obligations	22,294,285	-	22,294,285
MMDT	-	14,193,148	14,193,148
PRIT fund	-	46,730,160	46,730,160
Pooled funds	-	4,602,860	4,602,860
	$	$	$
Totals	32,183,691	65,526,168	97,709,859

The composition of the Town's bank recorded deposits and investments fluctuates depending primarily on the timing of real estate tax receipts, proceeds from borrowings, collection of state and federal receipts, capital outlays throughout the year and operating requirements of the Light Department.

As previously noted, the Town holds shares in pooled investment funds. These funds hold investments in derivative securities. As such the Town's investment in such funds may be exposed to a risk of loss associated with these derivative investments. In accordance with GASB Technical Bulletin 94-1 the Town is required to disclose in the notes to the financial statements that it holds investments in derivative securities and whether the risk of loss associated with such investments is material. The Town does not believe that any risk of material loss associated with derivative investments in pooled investment funds exists.

Note 6. Pension Plan

(a) Plan Description

The Town contributes to the Town of Reading Retirement System (the "System"), a cost sharing, multi-employer, public employee retirement system that acts as the investment and administrative agent for the Town and the Reading Housing Authority. The System provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The System is a member of the Massachusetts Contributory System and is governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended.

With the exception of teachers, the System covers all permanent, full-time employees. Public school teachers are covered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System, to which the Town does not contribute.

(b) Membership

Membership in the System consisted of the following at June 30, 1998, the date of the latest actuarial valuation:

Active participants:	
Vested employees	231
Nonvested employees	174
	405
Retired participants:	
Pensioners	266
Beneficiaries	49
	315
Totals	720
Total number of participating employers	2

(c) Contribution

Plan members are required to contribute to the System. Active members must contribute between 5% and 11% of their regular gross compensation depending on the date upon which their membership began. Participating employers are required to pay into the System their share of the remaining system-wide actuarially determined contribution and plan administration costs, which are apportioned among the employers based on the actuarial valuation. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts funded the cost-of-living increases granted from July 1, 1981 to July 1, 1997. The System is responsible for cost-of-living adjustments granted after July 1, 1998. This change is reflected in the actuarial accrued liability as of June 30, 1998. The Town's contributions to the System for the years ending June 30, 1998, 1997 and 1996 were $2,678,094, $2,622,656 and $2,616,420, respectively, which equaled its required contribution for each year.

(d) Legally Required Reserve Accounts

The balances in the System's legally required reserves (on the statutory basis of accounting) at June 30, 1998 are as follows:

Description	Amount	Purpose
	$	
Annuity Savings Fund	11,825,426	Active members' contribution balance
Annuity Reserve Fund	4,056,509	Retired members' contribution account
Military Service Credit	5,498	Members' contribution account while on military leave
Pension Reserve Fund	29,678,237	Amount accumulated to fund future retirement benefits
Pension Fund	1,210,889	Remaining net assets
	$	
	46,776,559	

All reserve accounts are funded at levels required by state statute.

(e) Investment Concentration

The System is a participating system in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund ("PRIT"). PRIT is an investment portfolio for the assets of member state and local retirement systems. Substantially all the assets of the System are invested in PRIT. It consists of two investment funds, the Capital Fund and the Cash Fund. The Capital Fund serves as the long-term asset portfolio and includes stocks, bonds, international investments, real estate and other alternative investments. The Cash Fund consists of short-term investments, which are used to meet the liquidity requirements of participating systems.

Note 7. Long-term Debt

The following is a summary of the Town's outstanding bonds at June 30, 1998 (electric bonds at December 31,1997):

Description	Interest Rates	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance
		$	$	$	$
Bonds:					
General purpose, serial maturities through 2001	4.68% to 6.43%	2,435,712	280,000	760,250	1,955,462
Electric, serial maturities through 2003	4.79% to 5.72%	5,751,000	-	808,000	4,943,000
Schools, serial maturities through 2003	4.70% to 6.37%	6,947,500	5,650,000	492,750	12,104,750
Sewer, serial maturities through 1999	4.63%	43,175	-	22,000	21,175
Water, serial maturities through 1999	4.63%	72,613	-	37,000	35,613
		$	$	$	$
		15,250,000	5,930,000	2,120,000	19,060,000

Temporary notes of $10,550,000 refinanced on July 1, 1998 (See Note 18) have been classified as general long-term debt.

The annual requirements to amortize all general obligation bonds payable outstanding as of June 30, 1998, including interest, are as follows (electric bonds at June 30, 1998, reflect a principal payment of $180,000 on February 15, 1998):

	Principal	Interest	Total
	$	$	$
Year ending June 30,			
1999	2,450,000	912,640	3,362,640
2000	2,075,000	795,359	2,870,359
2001	2,080,000	688,089	2,768,089
2002	1,270,000	601,085	1,871,085
Thereafter	11,005,000	3,532,206	14,537,206
	$	$	$
	18,880,000	6,529,379	25,409,379

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has approved school construction assistance to the Town. The assistance program, which is administered by the School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB), provides resources for future debt service of general obligation school bonds outstanding. These resources are subject to annual appropriation by the state legislature and the Town's compliance with certain reporting requirements. During 1998, the Town received $364,945 of such assistance.

The Town is subject to a dual level general debt limit; the normal debt limit and the double debt limit. Such limits are equal to 5% and 10%, respectively, of the valuation of taxable property in the Town as last equalized by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue. Debt may be authorized up to the normal debt limit without state approval. Authorizations under the double debt limit, however, require the approval of the Commonwealth's Emergency Finance Board. Additionally, there are many categories of general obligation debt which are exempt from the debt limit but are subject to other limitations.

The authorized and unissued debt at June 30, 1998, is as follows:

	$
Parker Middle School	7,750,000
School technology	400,000
Eaton School renovations	350,000
Birch Meadow School renovations	600,000
High School renovations	1,850,000
Coolidge School renovations	9,000,000
School renovations	700,000
Wood End Cemetery	200,000
Recreational facilities	267,000
Police station	4,400,000
Sewer construction	115,000
	$ 25,632,000

As of June 30, 1998, the Town may issue approximately $74,905,000 of additional general obligation debt under the normal debt limit. The Town has approximately $16,116,000 of debt exempt from the debt limit.

The Town pays assessments which include debt service payments to other local governmental units providing services within the Town's boundaries (commonly referred to as overlapping debt). The following summary sets forth the long-term debt of each entity at June 30, 1998, the estimated share of such debt being serviced by the Town and the total of its share of estimated indirect debt.

	Long-term Debt Outstanding (Unaudited)	Town's Estimated Share	Town's Estimated Indirect Debt
	$		$
MBTA	3,210,730,000	0.045%	1,445,000
MWRA	2,957,117,000	1.053%	31,140,000
Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District	370,000	1.318%	5,000
	$ 6,168,217,000		$ 32,590,000

Note 8. Temporary Borrowings

Under state law and by authorization of the Board of Selectmen, the Town is authorized to borrow on a temporary basis to fund the following:

Current operating costs prior to the collection of revenues through issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes (RANs or TANs).

Capital project costs incurred prior to obtaining permanent financing through issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANs).

Federal and state aided capital projects and other program expenditures prior to receiving reimbursement through issuance of Federal and state aid anticipation notes (FANs and SANs).

Temporary loans are general obligations of the Town and carry maturity dates which are limited by statute. Interest expenditures for Town temporary borrowings were $515,588 and are accounted for in the General Fund. At June 30, 1998, $5,000,000 of 4.00%, $4,250,000 of 3.90%, $3,500,000 of 4.10%, $2,450,000 of 3.73%, $1,217,000 of 3.98% BANS and $40,000 of 4.11% SANS maturing in fiscal 1999 were outstanding. Temporary borrowings of $10,550,000 were refinanced on July 1, 1998 (See Notes 7 and 18).

Note 9. Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company

The Town of Reading acting through its Light Department is a Participant in certain Projects of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

MMWEC is a public corporation and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created as a means to develop a bulk power supply for its Members and other utilities. MMWEC is authorized to construct, own or purchase ownership interests in and to issue revenue bonds to finance electric facilities (Projects). MMWEC has acquired ownership interests in electric facilities operated by other utilities and also owns and operates its own electric facilities. MMWEC sells all of the capability (Project Capability) of each of its Projects to its Members and other utilities (Project Participants) under Power Sales Agreements (PSAs). Among other things, the PSAs require each Project Participant to pay its pro rata share of MMWEC's costs related to the Project, which costs include debt service on bonds issued by MMWEC to finance the Project, plus 10% of MMWEC's debt service to be paid into a Reserve and Contingency Fund. In addition, should any Project Participant fail to make payment, other Project Participants may be required to increase (step-up) and correspondingly their Participant's share of the Project Capability to an additional amount not to exceed 25% of their original Participant's share of the Project Capability . Project Participants have covenanted to fix, revise, and collect rates at least sufficient to meet their obligations under the PSAs.

MMWEC also contracts to purchase power from third parties which is resold to Members and other utilities under agreements known as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

The payments required to be made to MMWEC under the PSAs and the PPAs are payable solely from Light Department revenues. Under the PSAs, each Participant is unconditionally obligated to make payments due to MMWEC whether or not the Project (s) is completed or operating and notwithstanding the suspension or interruption of the output of the Project (s).

MMWEC operates the Stony Brook Intermediate Project and Stony Brook Peaking Project fossel-fueled power plants. MMWEC has a 22.7 MW interest in the Wyman Unit No. 4 plant, operated by Central Maine Power Company (CMP). In January 1998, CMP agreed, subject to Maine Public Utilities Commission approval, to sell its power plants to Florida Power and Light which included CMP's 59% share of Wymans Unit No. 4 for which it is lead owner.

MMWEC's 11.6% ownership interest in the Seabrook Station nuclear generating unit represents a substantial portion of its plant investment and financing program. In addition, MMWEC has a 4.8% ownership interest in the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit.

The MMWEC Seabrook and Millstone Project Participants, per the PSAs, are liable for their proportionate share of the cost of a nuclear incident at those nuclear power plants as outlined in the Price-Andersen Act. The Project Participants are also liable for the decommissioning expenses being funded through monthly Project billings.

In November 1997, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted legislation effective March 1, 1998 to restructure the electric utility industry. MMWEC and the municipal light departments are not specifically subject to the legislation. However, it is management's belief that industry restructuring and customer choice promulgated within the legislation will have an effect on MMWEC and the Participant's operations.

In anticipation of the electric utility deregulation, MMWEC adopted a Pathway to Competition strategy in 1997 which provides for the billing of amounts in advance of their scheduled due dates for the purpose of paying when due, certain of MMWEC's outstanding bonds. The Reading Municipal Light Department has paid $344,360 to MMWEC under the Pathway to Competition strategy which in going to be utilized by MMWEC to satisfy the debt obligation noted in the schedules relating to Reading Municipal Light Department's Power Sales Agreements. In June 1998, the MMWEC Board of Directors voted to suspend for one year, commencing with the July 1998 billing, the Pathway to Competition billings with the condition that during that one year, MMWEC and its Project Participants will work joinly to address stranded costs; and to reinstitute its Pathway to Competition billings at the conclusion of the one-year suspension.

MMWEC is involved in various legal actions. In the opinion of management, the outcome of such litigation or claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the company.

As of June 30, 1998, total capital expenditures amounted to $1,476,599,000, of which $104,875,000 represents the amount associated with the Department's Project Capability. MMWEC's debt outstanding for the Projects included Power Supply System Revenue bonds totaling $1,223,085,000, of which $82,364,000 is associated with the Department's share of Project Capability. As of June 30, 1998, MMWEC's total future debt service requirement on outstanding bonds issued for Projects is $1,969,421,000, of which $123,485,000 is anticipated to be billed to the Department.

Reading Light Department has entered into PSAs with MMWEC. Under these agreements, the Department is required to make certain payments to MMWEC. The aggregate amount of Reading Municipal Light Department's required payments under the PSAs, exclusive of Reserve and Contingency Fund billings, and for significant power purchase contracts through MMWEC at June 30, 1998 and estimated for future years is shown below.

Year ending June 30,	$
1999	8,313,000
2000	8,365,000
2001	8,379,000
2002	8,381,000
2003	8,364,000
Thereafter	81,683,000
Total	$ 123,485,000

In addition, the Department is required to pay its share of the operation and maintenance costs of the Projects in which it participates. The Department's total O&M costs including debt service under the PSAs were $17,224,000 and $15,451,000 for the years ended June 30, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

Note 10. Capital Projects Funds Deficits

Capital projects have been funded by the issuance of bond anticipation notes. Deficit fund balances arise because the bond anticipation notes are presented as a liability of the fund receiving the proceeds. The Town intends to reduce these deficits by subsequent appropriations and will eliminate the remaining deficits by the issuance of long-term debt. The detail of these deficits on June 30, 1998 is as follows:

	$
Cemetery development fund	139,795
Park facilities fund	180,235
Police station fund	135,557
Coolidge School renovation fund	280,250
School technology fund	400,000
	$ 1,135,837

Note 11. Operating Transfers

Operating transfers constitute the transfer of resources from the fund that receives the resources to the fund that utilizes them. The following table summarizes operating transfers for the year ended June 30, 1998.

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Electric Enterprise	Expendable Trusts	Nonexpendable Trusts
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Purpose of operating transfer:						
Cemetery sale of lots	41,000	(41,000)	-	-	-	-
Wetland protection act	940	(940)	-	-	-	-
Sale of real estate	608,727	(608,727)	-	-	-	-
Weight and measures scanner	1	(1)	-	-	-	-
Electric earnings distribution	1,529,818	-	-	(1,529,818)	-	-
Retirement of BAN	(100,000)	-	100,000	-	-	-
Cemetery perpetual care	94,885	-	-	-	(94,885)	-
Investment income	-	-	-	-	96,605	(96,605)
	$ 2,175,371	$ (650,668)	$ 100,000	$ (1,529,818)	$ 1,720	$ (96,605)

Note 12. Property, Plant and Equipment

A summary of property, plant and equipment by major category is as follows:

	Water and Sewer Funds (June 30, 1998)	Electric Fund (December 31, 1997)
	$	$
Land and land improvements	254,630	1,009,475
Plant and buildings	5,720,852	11,938,156
Lines	9,265,276	-
Equipment and fixtures	2,096,455	44,871,239
	17,337,213	57,818,870
Less accumulated depreciation	(7,687,408)	(25,962,361)
	$ 9,649,805	$ 31,856,509

Note 13. Deferred Compensation Plan

The Town offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The Plan, available to all permanent Town employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

All amounts of compensation deferred under the Plan, all property and rights purchased with those amounts, and all income attributable to those amounts, property, or rights are (until paid or made available to the employee or other beneficiary) solely the property and rights of the Town (without being restricted to the provisions of benefits under the plan), subject only to the claims of the Town's general creditors. Participants' rights under the Plan are equal to those of general creditors of the Town in an amount equal to the fair market value of the deferred account for each participant.

Note 14. Risk Management

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to employee health insurance claims, workers' compensation, unemployment and general liability, property and casualty. The liability for threatened or pending claims or lawsuits against the Town with respect to such risk is not material to the financial statements.

The Town is a member of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, Inc. Health Benefits Trust (Health Benefits Trust) currently operating as a common risk management program for employee health claims for participating communities. The Health Benefits Trust assesses premiums which are shared by the Town and its employees. The Health Benefits Trust is self-sustaining through member premiums and reinsures through commercial companies for stop loss insurance.

The Town is a member of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association Workers' Compensation Group, Inc. (Workers' Compensation Group) currently operating as a common risk management program for workers' compensation for participating communities. The Workers' Compensation Group program is fully insured for which the Town pays premiums.

The Town is self-insured for unemployment benefits. Payments for claims totaling $9,313 were made during the year ended June 30, 1998. The liability for claims filed but unpaid is not material.

Buildings are fully insured against fire, theft and natural disaster to the extent of losses exceeding $25,000 per incident. The Town is insured for vehicle damage and loss and also other general liability with various deductibles per type of claim. During the year, expenditures for claims and judgments, excluding health, workers' compensation and unemployment benefits were $2,381 and were recorded in the general fund.

Chapter 258 of the Massachusetts General Laws limits general liability to $100,000 per claim in all matters except actions relating to federal / civil rights, eminent domain and breach of contract.

Note 15. Postemployment Health Benefits

In addition to the pension benefits described in Note 6, the Town provides postemployment health care benefits, in accordance with State statutes and within the limits provided in Town policy, to employees who retire from the Town. The following limit pertains: Retiring employees who did not have health insurance through the Town when retiring may not obtain it except that within ten years of retirement, they may opt to join the Town's group plan on March 1st of the even numbered years only. Currently 421 retirees, Medicare eligible spouses and surviving spouses meet those eligibility requirements. The percentage paid by the Town fluctuates based on collective bargaining agreements. As of June 30, 1998, the Town pays 70% of the premiums for medical and hospitalization insurance incurred by pre-Medicare retirees and their dependents. The Town also pays 70% of the premiums for a Medicare supplement for each retiree eligible for Medicare and 70% of the insurance premiums for said retiree's dependents. The Town's share of the total cost for the year ended June 30, 1998, was approximately $814,000.

Note 16. Segment Information - Water and Sewer Funds

Financial segment information as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, is presented below:

	Water	Sewer	Total
	$	$	$
Operating revenues	2,306,800	3,347,455	5,654,255
Depreciation expense	420,066	192,485	612,551
Operating income	134,723	111,568	246,291
Net income	146,240	137,755	283,995
Property, plant and equipment additions	592,597	187,178	779,775
Net working capital	1,955,586	2,213,246	4,168,832
Total assets	7,094,641	7,125,361	14,220,002
Bonds payable	35,613	21,175	56,788
Total equity	6,875,161	6,849,685	13,802,960

Note 17. Landfill Closure and Postclosure Care Costs

The Town's landfill was closed in 1982. State and federal laws and regulations require the Town to place a final cover on its landfill site by fiscal year 2000. Those laws and regulations also require the Town to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for 30 years after the landfill cover is installed. The Town estimates the landfill closure and postclosure care costs to be approximately $6,000,000 which is included in the general long-term obligations account group in the accompanying balance sheet. This estimate is based on what it would cost to perform all closure and postclosure care in fiscal 1998. The potential exists for changes to the estimates due to inflation or deflation, technology or applicable laws and regulations.

Note 18. Subsequent Event

On July 1, 1998 the Town sold $11,250,000 of general obligation bonds, at interest rates ranging 4.00% to 6.75% with serial maturities through 2017. The bonds were issued to refinance certain bond anticipation notes which were scheduled to mature in fiscal 1999.

TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Reading Contributory Retirement System

Required Supplementary Information
(unaudited)

Schedule of Funding Progress
(in thousands)

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b - a)	Funding Ratio (a / b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b - a) / c)
	$	$	$	%	$	%
30-Jun-93	18,728	44,549	25,821	42.0	11,883	217.3
30-Jun-94	22,066	46,152	24,086	47.8	12,596	191.2
30-Jun-95	23,672	51,015	27,343	46.4	12,996	210.4
30-Jun-96	27,107	53,296	26,189	50.9	13,074	200.3
30-Jun-97	34,309	55,906	21,597	61.4	13,635	158.4
30-Jun-98	39,196	65,547	26,351	59.8	14,248	185.0

Notes to Schedule

Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Valuation date:	30-Jun-97
Actuarial cost method:	Entry age normal actuarial cost method
Amortization method:	40 year amortization schedule with 31 years remaining and payments increasing at 1.5% per year
Asset valuation method:	Cost
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	8.00%
Projected salary increases	6.00%
Cost-of-living adjustment	Cost of living adjustments granted after July 1, 1998 are the responsibility of the Reading Contributory Retirement System. Adjustments granted prior to July 1, 1998 have been funded by Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This change is reflected in the actuarial accrued liability as of June 30, 1998.

TOWN OF READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Reading Contributory Retirement System

Required Supplementary Information
(unaudited)

Schedule of Contributions from Employers

Year Ended June 30	Annual Required Contribution	Percentage Contributed
	$	%
1993	1,934,500	120.3
1994	1,865,600	131.5
1995	1,921,600	126.7
1996	1,955,300	134.6
1997	2,012,900	130.6
1998	2,177,800	123.3

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Special Revenue Funds

Combining Balance Sheet

June 30, 1998

	School Funds	Sale of Real Estate Fund	Other Funds	Totals
Assets				
	$	$	$	$
Cash and investments	477,096	1,916,304	405,585	2,798,985
Due from state	-	-	25,346	25,346
Accrued interest	-	19,655	-	19,655
	$	$	$	$
Total assets	477,096	1,935,959	430,931	2,843,986
Liabilities and Fund Balances				
	$	$	$	$
Liabilities:				
Warrants and accounts payable	64,284	-	24,134	88,418
Accrued payroll payable	24,822	-	-	24,822
Total liabilities	89,106	-	24,134	113,240
Fund balances:				
Unreserved:				
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	-	152,135	20,940	173,075
Undesignated	387,990	1,783,824	385,857	2,557,671
Total fund balances	387,990	1,935,959	406,797	2,730,746
	$	$	$	$
Total liabilities and fund balances	477,096	1,935,959	430,931	2,843,986

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Special Revenue Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended June 30, 1998

	School Funds	Sale of Real Estate Fund	Other Funds	Totals
	$	$	$	$
Revenues:				
Charges for services	796,634	-	602,394	1,399,028
Intergovernmental	1,095,404	-	224,501	1,319,905
Investment income	-	116,101	-	116,101
Other	4,465	90,076	126,915	221,456
Total revenues	1,896,503	206,177	953,810	3,056,490
Expenditures:				
General government	-	-	34,986	34,986
Public safety	-	-	443,831	443,831
Education	1,757,258	-	-	1,757,258
Public works and facilities	-	-	33,587	33,587
Human services	-	-	81,835	81,835
Culture and recreation	-	-	282,406	282,406
Total expenditures	1,757,258	-	876,645	2,633,903
Excess of revenues over expenditures	139,245	206,177	77,165	422,587
Other financing sources (uses):				
Operating transfers (out)	-	(608,727)	(41,941)	(650,668)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures and other financing uses	139,245	(402,550)	35,224	(228,081)
Fund balances, beginning of year	248,745	2,338,509	371,573	2,958,827
	$	$	$	$
Fund balances, end of year	387,990	1,935,959	406,797	2,730,746

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Funds
Combining Balance Sheet
June 30, 1998

	Highway Projects Fund	Cemetery Development Fund	Park Facilities Fund	Downtown Design Program Fund	Police Station Fund	Business Development Fund	Birch Meadow School Renovations Fund	Joshua Eaton School Renovations Fund	Coolidge School Renovations Fund	Parker School Renovations Fund	High School Renovations Fund	School Technology Fund	Totals
Assets													
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Cash (overdraft) and investments	(432,493)	63,027	96,765	25,977	1,914,684	132,200	258,241	146,361	3,000,000	227,447	820,284	139	6,252,632
Due from state	464,100	-	-	14,023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	478,123
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total assets	31,607	63,027	96,765	40,000	1,914,684	132,200	258,241	146,361	3,000,000	227,447	820,284	139	6,730,755
Liabilities and Fund Balances													
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Liabilities:													
Warrants and accounts payable	30,672	2,822	10,000	-	50,241	11,508	29,498	-	280,250	103,894	203,477	139	722,501
Notes payable	-	200,000	267,000	40,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	400,000	5,907,000
Total liabilities	30,672	202,822	277,000	40,000	2,050,241	11,508	29,498	-	3,280,250	103,894	203,477	400,139	6,629,501
Fund balances (deficits):													
Unreserved	935	(139,795)	(180,235)	-	(135,557)	120,692	228,743	146,361	(280,250)	123,553	616,807	(400,000)	101,254
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Total liabilities and fund balances	31,607	63,027	96,765	40,000	1,914,684	132,200	258,241	146,361	3,000,000	227,447	820,284	139	6,730,755

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Capital Projects Funds
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances (Deficits)
Year Ended June 30, 1998

	Highway Projects Fund	Cemetery Development Fund	Park Facilities Fund	Downtown Design Program Fund	Police Station Fund	Business Development Fund	Birch Meadow School Renovations Fund	Joshua Eaton School Renovations Fund	Coolidge School Renovations Fund	Parker School Renovations Fund	High School Renovations Fund	School Technology Fund	School Boilers Fund	Totals
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Revenues:														
Intergovernmental	308,023	-	-	14,023	-	140,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	462,046
Expenditures:														
Capital outlays	305,992	23,916	78,915	14,023	415,557	19,308	371,257	203,639	280,250	757,288	1,233,193	9,550	172,000	3,884,888
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	2,031	(23,916)	(78,915)	-	(415,557)	120,692	(371,257)	(203,639)	(280,250)	(757,288)	(1,233,193)	(9,550)	(172,000)	(3,422,842)
Other financing sources:														
Proceeds from general obligation bonds	-	-	-	-	280,000	-	600,000	350,000	-	13,228,000	1,850,000	-	172,000	16,480,000
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Total other financing sources	-	-	-	-	280,000	-	600,000	350,000	-	13,228,000	1,850,000	100,000	172,000	16,580,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	2,031	(23,916)	(78,915)	-	(135,557)	120,692	228,743	146,361	(280,250)	12,470,712	616,807	90,450	-	13,157,158
Fund balances (deficits), beginning of year	(1,096)	(115,879)	(101,320)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,347,159)	-	(490,450)	-	(13,055,904)
Fund balances (deficits), end of year	$ 935	$ (139,795)	$ (180,235)	$ -	$ (135,557)	$ 120,692	$ 228,743	$ 146,361	$ (280,250)	$ 123,553	$ 616,807	$ (400,000)	$ -	$ 101,254

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds

Combining Balance Sheet

June 30, 1998

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Totals
Assets			
	$	$	$
Cash and investments	1,232,337	1,372,132	2,604,469
Receivables (net of allowances for uncollectibles):			
Deferred charges	1,091	2,382	3,473
Tax liens	38,802	46,167	84,969
User charges	760,000	1,040,000	1,800,000
Special assessments	-	5,630	5,630
Inventory	71,656	-	71,656
Property, plant and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation)	4,990,755	4,659,050	9,649,805
	$	$	$
Total assets	7,094,641	7,125,361	14,220,002
Liabilities and Fund Equity			
	$	$	$
Liabilities:			
Warrants and accounts payable	108,121	198,716	306,837
Compensated absences	35,567	1,436	37,003
Accrued interest on bonds payable	286	170	456
Deferred revenue	39,893	54,179	94,072
Bonds payable	35,613	21,175	56,788
Total liabilities	219,480	275,676	495,156
Fund equity:			
Contributed capital	335,022	2,744,457	3,079,479
Retained earnings:			
Reserved	5,973,479	3,413,304	9,386,783
Unreserved	566,660	691,924	1,258,584
Total fund equity	6,875,161	6,849,685	13,724,846
	$	$	$
Total liabilities and fund equity	7,094,641	7,125,361	14,220,002

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Equity

Year ended June 30, 1998

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Totals
	$	$	$
Operating revenues:			
Charges for services	2,306,800	3,344,670	5,651,470
Special assessments	-	2,785	2,785
Total operating revenues	2,306,800	3,347,455	5,654,255
Operating expenses:			
Personal services	574,071	171,649	745,720
Fringe benefits	150,626	30,250	180,876
Energy purchases	161,402	19,721	181,123
Intergovernmental	34,648	2,624,940	2,659,588
Depreciation	420,066	192,485	612,551
Other	831,264	196,842	1,028,106
Total operating expenses	2,172,077	3,235,887	5,407,964
Operating income	134,723	111,568	246,291
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):			
Investment income	14,772	28,123	42,895
Interest expense	(3,255)	(1,936)	(5,191)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	11,517	26,187	37,704
Net income	146,240	137,755	283,995
Fund equity, beginning of year	6,728,921	6,711,930	13,440,851
	$	$	$
Fund equity, end of year	6,875,161	6,849,685	13,724,846

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds

Combining Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended June 30, 1998

	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Totals
	$	$	$
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Operating income	134,723	111,568	246,291
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	420,066	192,485	612,551
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Decrease in accounts receivable (net)	30,342	94,230	124,572
(Increase) in inventory	(17,760)	-	(17,760)
Increase (decrease) in warrants and accounts payable	(12,237)	193,894	181,657
(Decrease) in compensated absences payable	(4,324)	(268)	(4,592)
Increase in deferred revenues	7,658	6,770	14,428
Net cash provided by operating activities	558,468	598,679	1,157,147
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(592,597)	(187,178)	(779,775)
Principal payments - bonds	(37,000)	(22,000)	(59,000)
Interest paid on bonds	(3,553)	(2,113)	(5,666)
Net cash used for capital and related financing activities	(633,150)	(211,291)	(844,441)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest on investments	14,772	28,123	42,895
Net increase (decrease) in cash and investments	(59,910)	415,511	355,601
Cash and investments, beginning of year	1,292,247	956,621	2,248,868
	$	$	$
Cash and investments, end of year	1,232,337	1,372,132	2,604,469

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Fiduciary Funds

Combining Balance Sheet

June 30, 1998

	Employee Retirement Trust Fund	Nonexpendable Trust Funds	Expendable Trust Funds	Agency Funds	Totals
Assets					
	$	$	$	$	$
Cash and investments	46,791,014	1,436,738	14,315,815	85,506	62,629,073
Investments with fiscal agents, at market	-	-	-	4,602,860	4,602,860
Receivables:					
Accrued interest	-	-	225,471	-	225,471
Education loans	-	1,600	-	-	1,600
	$	$	$	$	$
Total assets	46,791,014	1,438,338	14,541,286	4,688,366	67,459,004
Liabilities and Fund Balances					
	$	$	$	$	$
Liabilities:					
Warrants and accounts payable	222	-	29,971	5,179	35,372
Other liabilities	14,233	-	-	80,327	94,560
Deferred compensation	-	-	-	4,602,860	4,602,860
Total liabilities	14,455	-	29,971	4,688,366	4,732,792
Fund balances:					
Reserved for endowments	-	1,438,338	-	-	1,438,338
Reserved for employees' pension benefits	46,776,559	-	-	-	46,776,559
Unreserved:					
Designated for subsequent year's expenditures	-	-	131,261	-	131,261
Undesignated	-	-	14,380,054	-	14,380,054
Total fund balances	46,776,559	1,438,338	14,511,315	-	62,726,212
	$	$	$	$	$
Total liabilities and fund balances	46,791,014	1,438,338	14,541,286	4,688,366	67,459,004

Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Expendable Trust Funds

Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

Year Ended June 30, 1998

	Municipal Light Pension Fund	Workers' Compensation Fund	Other Expendable Trust Funds	Totals
	$	$	$	$
Revenues:				
Investment income	684,075	4,519	744,163	1,432,757
Contributions and bequests	72,737	-	213,888	286,625
Reinsurance recoveries	-	260,938	-	260,938
Total revenues	756,812	265,457	958,051	1,980,320
Expenditures:				
Gereral government	-	-	636	636
Education	-	-	6,175	6,175
Human services	-	-	294,345	294,345
Culture and recreation	-	-	21,428	21,428
Employee benefits	669,355	223,905	-	893,260
Total expenditures	669,355	223,905	322,584	1,215,844
Excess of revenues over expenditures	87,457	41,552	635,467	764,476
Other financing sources:				
Operating transfers in	-	-	1,720	1,720
Excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	87,457	41,552	637,187	766,196
Fund balances, beginning of year	8,932,702	96,223	4,274,914	13,303,839
Cumulative effect of change in value of investments to fair value	(2,858)	-	444,138	441,280
	$	$	$	$
Fund balances, end of year	9,017,301	137,775	5,356,239	14,511,315

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

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Exhibit I

AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

The Board of Selectmen
Town of Reading, Massachusetts:

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Reading, Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated October 5, 1998. We did not audit the financial statements of the Electric Enterprise Fund, which statements reflect total assets and revenues consisting of 80% and 91%, respectively, of the related proprietary fund types. Those financial statements were audited by other auditors whose report thereon has been furnished to us and our opinion expressed herein, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Electric Enterprise Fund, is based solely upon the report of the other auditors. Our report is qualified for the omission of a general fixed asset account group and refers to the Electric Enterprise Fund preparing its financial information in conformity with accounting practices prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Our report also referred to the adoption of Statement No. 31 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

The Board of Selectmen
Town of Reading, Massachusetts

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the general purpose financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involved in the internal control over financial reporting that we have reported to management of the Town in a separate letter dated October 5, 1998.

This report is intended for the information of elected officials, management and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

KPMG Peat Marwick LLP

October 5, 1998

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Expenditures and Encumbrances, Compared to Budget (Cash Basis)
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget (Revised)	Expenditures	Encumbered	Unencumbered Balance
	$	$	$	$
General government:				
Selectmen:				
Non-personal expenses	3,400	3,269		131
Manager:				
Personal services	85,663	85,663		
Non-personal expenses	16,080	15,843		237
Capital outlay	10,000	9,709	291	
General services:				
Personal services	110,438	109,426		1,012
Non-personal expenses	60,520	60,517		3
Finance committee:				
Personal services	1,230	888		342
Non-personal expenses	32,190	32,190		
Reserve fund	46,224			46,224
Accountant:				
Personal services	85,120	84,945		175
Non-personal expenses	320	86	85	149
Board of assessors:				
Personal services	77,277	77,219		58
Non-personal expenses	33,300	8,031	25,000	269
Finance:				
Personal services	223,171	222,268		903
Non-personal expenses	49,181	47,587	987	607
Law:				
Non-personal expenses	163,100	158,889		4,211
Personnel:				
Personal services	34,332	34,304		28
Non-personal expenses	42,844	40,828		2,016
Technology:				
Personal services	71,509	71,444		65
Non-personal expenses	104,997	85,830	11,948	7,219
Capital outlay	55,000	4,555	50,445	
Clerk:				
Personal services	41,277	41,246		31
Non-personal expenses	1,450	1,327		123
Elections and Registration:				
Personal services	12,200	9,482		2,718
Non-personal expenses	13,840	13,812		28

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Expenditures and Encumbrances, Compared to Budget (Cash Basis)
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget (Revised)	Expenditures	Encumbered	Unencumbered Balance
	$	$	$	$
Conservation:				
Personal services	40,180	40,180		
Non-personal expenses	250	250		
Community development:				
Personal services	90,083	87,625		2,458
Non-personal expenses	2,150	2,144		6
Capital outlay	10,000	7,416	2,584	
Zoning:				
Personal services	1,250	1,050		200
Building maintenance:				
Personal services	97,412	95,652		1,760
Non-personal expenses	292,092	278,771	13,320	1
Capital outlay	302,705	223,681	79,024	
Casualty insurance:				
Non-personal expenses	86,328	80,339		5,989
	$	$	$	$
Total general government	2,297,113	2,036,466	183,684	76,963
	$	$	$	$
Public safety:				
Police:				
Personal services	2,432,276	2,410,887		21,389
Non-personal expenses	227,745	223,277	4,468	
Capital outlay	104,800	72,711	32,089	
Fire:				
Personal services	2,531,492	2,525,759		5,733
Non-personal expenses	106,685	86,727	18,380	1,578
Capital outlay	144,400	133,821	7,116	3,463
Dispatchers:				
Personal services	239,881	239,881		
Non-personal expenses	22,290	22,287		3
Indemnification police / fire:				
Non-personal expenses	30,000	29,204	588	208
Building inspector:				
Personal services	85,271	84,710		561
Non-personal expenses	2,740	2,682		58
Animal control:				
Personal services	14,460	14,384		76
Non-personal expenses	5,990	5,962		28
	$	$	$	$
Total public safety	5,948,030	5,852,292	62,641	33,097

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Expenditures and Encumbrances, Compared to Budget (Cash Basis)
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget (Revised)	Expenditures	Encumbered	Unencumbered Balance
	$	$	$	$
Education:				
School department:				
Personal services	16,559,936	15,824,137	704,306	31,493
Non-personal expenses	4,825,865	4,729,537	96,328	
Capital outlay	190,000	97,406	92,594	
Northeast Regional Vocational School District assessment	94,352	94,352		
	$	$	$	$
Total education	21,670,153	20,745,432	893,228	31,493
	$	$	$	$
Public works and facilities:				
Public works administration:				
Personal services	80,387	80,218		169
Non-personal expenses	2,783	2,682	101	
Engineering:				
Personal services	180,175	176,750		3,425
Non-personal expenses	22,653	22,653		
Capital outlay	73,000	23,000	50,000	
Highway and equipment maintenance:				
Personal services	514,901	501,071		13,830
Non-personal expenses	329,343	306,095	23,248	
Capital outlay	429,000	290,373	122,984	15,643
Waste collection and disposal:				
Non-personal expenses	864,675	861,847	650	2,178
Parks and forestry:				
Personal services	309,680	286,241		23,439
Non-personal expenses	55,536	43,936	11,600	
Capital outlay	12,000	12,000		
Snow and ice control:				
Personal services	81,045	80,581		464
Non-personal expenses	206,422	203,275		3,147
Street lighting:				
Non-personal expenses	203,366	194,328	9,038	
Public way acceptance:				
Various public ways	30	30		
Cemetery:				
Personal services	201,350	194,138		7,212
Non-personal expenses	43,985	36,088	6,380	1,517
	$	$	$	$
Total public works and facilities:	3,610,331	3,315,306	224,001	71,024

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Expenditures and Encumbrances, Compared to Budget (Cash Basis)
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget (Revised)	Expenditures	Encumbered	Unencumbered Balance
	$	$	$	$
Human services:				
Health:				
Personal services	71,590	70,871		719
Non-personal expenses	46,087	44,151	1,117	819
Human services:				
Personal services	50,565	49,538		1,027
Non-personal expenses	2,000	1,920		80
Elder services:				
Personal services	112,410	108,326		4,084
Non-personal expenses	19,456	15,407	365	3,684
Veterans:				
Personal services	10,649	10,649		
Non-personal expenses	545	545		
Veterans assistance	7,400	6,618		782
	$	$	$	$
Total human services	320,702	308,025	1,482	11,195
	$	$	$	$
Culture and recreation:				
Library:				
Personal services	526,256	526,256		
Non-personal expenses	133,492	133,492		
Capital outlay	46,700	18,408	28,292	
Recreation:				
Personal services	39,322	39,318		4
Non-personal expenses	2,800	2,774		26
Historical commission	750	750		
	$	$	$	$
Total culture and recreation	749,320	720,998	28,292	30
Debt service:				
Retirement of debt	1,253,000	1,253,000		
Interest on long term debt	615,326	611,393		3,933
Retirement of bond anticipation note (1)	100,000	100,000		
Short term interest expense	615,313	518,520		96,793
	$	$	$	$
Total debt service	2,583,639	2,482,913		100,726

(1) Classified as other financing use on financial statements.

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Statement of Expenditures and Encumbrances, Compared to Budget (Cash Basis)
General Fund
Year ended June 30, 1998

	Budget (Revised)	Expenditures	Encumbered	Unencumbered Balance
	$	$	$	$
Employee benefits:				
Contributory retirement assessment	1,953,570	1,953,570		
Non-contributory pensions	83,550	83,550		
Unemployment benefits	30,000	20,687		9,313
Group health and life insurance	2,530,958	2,398,505		132,453
Social security	305,610	300,842		4,768
Worker compensation	169,050	139,835		29,215
	$	$	$	$
Total employee benefits	5,072,738	4,896,989		175,749
	$	$	$	$
Intergovernmental:				
County assessments:				
County tax	44,760	44,760		
State assessments:				
Special education	1,227	5,108		(3,881)
School choice assessments		3,962		(3,962)
Retirement system	4,155	4,155		
Air pollution control	5,768	5,768		
Metro area planning council	5,389	5,389		
Non-renewal excise tax		9,540		(9,540)
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority	599,184	599,184		
	$	$	$	$
Total Intergovernmental	660,483	677,866		(17,383)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Community Development serves the Community Planning and Development Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Sign Review Board, the Historical Commission and the Land Bank Committee. The Department is excellently served by its clerical staff, Carolyn Walsh and Nancy Graham.

Inspections Division

The Building Inspector, Glen Redmond, issued 691 permits, made 1,279 inspections and obtained $119,268.32 in revenues in 1998. The Plumbing and Gas Inspector, Edward Cirigliano, issued 342 plumbing permits with revenues of $11,957, issued 189 gas permits with revenues of $4,753 and conducted 1,001 inspections. The Wiring Inspector, John Holland, issued 616 wiring permits, conducted 943 inspections and obtained revenues of $21,468. The Zoning Enforcement Officer, Matthew Hakala, issued 107 zoning violation notices, of which four resulted in fines being levied. The total revenues of the Inspections Division in 1998 was $157,446.32.

Community Planning and Development Commission

The Community Planning and Development Commission held 30 public hearings in 22 public meetings during 1998. It heard and decided on eight Site Plan Review cases (Fraen Corporation, Eastern Middlesex Board of Realtors, YMCA, Cumberland Farms, Brande Court Parking Lot, Carter and Coleman Realty, 601-607 Main Street, 80 New Crossing Road). The Commission also reviewed three Definitive Subdivisions (Sunset Rock, Marion Road, Melendy Drive); one Preliminary Subdivision (Pleasant Road Extension); and two PRD-G proposals (Harold Avenue, 116 Van Norden Road). The Commission also reviewed 24 Approval-Not-Required subdivision plans and handled 16 subdivision bond requests. The Planning Division received $13,695 in revenues in 1998.

In pursuit of Master Plan objectives, the Commission proposed several Zoning By-Law amendments which were adopted by Town Meeting: Amendments to Adult Zoning, Assisted Living, Off-Premise Signs and Changes to Lot Sizes and Shapes due to Acquisitions for Public Purpose. The Commission approved the application for Walnut Street Scenic Road. Progress was made in other Downtown improvement efforts including the blight project and the new Police Station site. The Town accepted 10 bids for the Reading Business Park Request for Proposal. The Board of Selectmen selected the Corporex Corporation as the successful bidder.

Town Planner, Jonathan Edwards, submitted his resignation to accept a similar position in Hanover, New Hampshire. Recreation Administrator, Joseph Connelly, was appointed as Acting Department Head and Clerk to the Community Planning and Development Commission.

Richard Schubert was appointed as Commission Chair and Jonathan Barnes became Commission Secretary. Richard Howard, Mike Flammia and Neil Sullivan (who replaced Susan DeMatteo) continue to serve as Members. The Commission appreciates the competent service of the Town Engineer Joseph Delaney.

Zoning Board Of Appeals

During 1998, the Zoning Board of Appeals heard and decided on 29 petitions for variances, special permits or appeals from a decision of the Building Inspector. Eighteen petitions were granted, four were denied, eleven were withdrawn and three were resolved as findings under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A. Christopher Vaccaro succeeded Stephen Tucker as Chairman; John Coote and Michael Larkin also serve as full Members. Laura Gregory and John Jarema are Associate Members. Glen Redmond provides professional services to the Board, and Carolyn Walsh serves the Board as its Recording Secretary.

Sign Review Board

During 1998, the Sign Review Board held 10 meetings and considered 18 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for business signs in the Downtown and in residential areas. With design guidance from the Architectural Intern and the Town Planner, the Board has finalized design standards and guidelines for commercial signs relative to such features as materials, colors, placement and graphics. James Treacy continued as Chair and other members are Geraldine Varney, Leslie McGonagle, Wayne MacLeod and Robert McIsaac. Matthew Hakala provides professional services to the Board.

Land Bank Committee

The Land Bank Committee has continued to add pertinent information to the record files. This included copies of maps, deeds and detailed items collected from many sources. Also, it has furnished information on request to various Town Boards and Committees, as well as to Town Counsel, on request from them. Members are Chairman Benjamin Nichols, Vice Chairman George Perry and Secretary Edward Smethurst.

Historical Commission

1998 marked the twentieth and most intensive work year for the Historical Commission. The major project and most time consuming was the successful rescue from demolition of the c.1710 Foster-Emerson House, and the ultimate relocation from its original site at 288 Grove Street to 409 Grove Street. Through the Town's Demolition Review By-law, the Commission negotiated with the house owners, Meadow Brook Golf Club, and devised alternatives to the dismantling and removal of this historic farmhouse. The main criteria was to retain the early post and beam construction intact and to keep the house within Reading. Various reuse ideas surfaced but a viable plan was needed to assure action before the six month delay expired. The Commission recruited a number of people who organized the Reading Friends of Historic Preservation, Inc., a non-profit group capable of executing a house move and restoration. Gladys Montgomery Jones, a Commission Member, resigned to chair the group. The Commission identified Town owned land suitable to relocate the house, and Town Meeting endorsed its release and sale. Of the two bids received, the Selectmen awarded the Town lot to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Sidelinker and held the "Friends" group bid in reserve.

The multiplicity of municipal, private, non-profit organization as well as private organization groups made it impossible to complete the effort within the six-month delay period. In reality, it took eleven months before the Foster-Emerson House was moved on September 15, 1998.

It is more realistic to extend the time in which to develop alternatives under the By-law from six to nine months. Grants from the Town's Celebration Trust Fund and house access by the Club allowed the Commission to document and develop preservation restrictions that are now attached to the house deed.

The Auburn Street Water Tower (listed on the National Register) went under demolition review and was released due to its deteriorated condition. The Commission was unable to save the oldest commercial store in the Downtown at 607 Main Street and the owner tore it down in July. However, the historic property at 30-32 John Street was retained and rehabbed as a condo development.

The Commission worked with neighbors and supported the Scenic Road Designation for Walnut Street and Mill Street. We provided input on the Mill Street Bridge reconstruction project and continue to offer new street names upon request. The Commission will now hold design review on a historic carriage house at 42 Chute Street granted by a Zoning Board of Appeals decision. Ongoing tasks include maintenance of the Town's repository where members identify, catalog, research and restore historic materials.

Two events provided different educational opportunities. In April, the second annual walking tour -- this year on Franklin Street and the Foster-Emerson House -- was held. The Reading MinuteMen provided a cannon salute. An Appraisal Day held at Longwood Place and open to the public, allowed many people to learn about antiques while illustrating that preservation takes many forms, from antiques to landmark structures, streetscapes, landscapes and Town character.

The Commission has worked diligently the past twenty years and, in particular, during 1998. We stand ready to serve the community by offering advice on historic matters relevant to the Town and to individuals.

Members of the Historical Commission include Virginia Adams, Chair, Louise Sandberg, Secretary, Roberta Sullivan, Treasurer, and Members Lt. Co. Wilbar Hoxie and Clayton Jones, and Associate Member David O'Sullivan.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission was established under Chapter 40, Section 8C, for the promotion and development of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources. In 1972, the Conservation Commission assumed regulatory control over the Wetlands Protection Act, and in 1996 they began overseeing and regulating the new Storm Water Management Policy and Riverfront Protection Act. State training has been ongoing. Two Commissioners completed the 8-part Conservation Fundamentals Course and others have participated in various segments.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

MAPC is the regional planning agency that serves 101 communities in the Metropolitan Boston Area and is represented by Mr. William F. Crowley. The MAPC's advice was extremely helpful in the Reading Business Park bid evaluation procedure. It was created by an act of the State legislature in 1963 and has been serving its communities since that time.

The Council is composed of one representative from each of the 101 communities appointed by the Chief Elected Officials (CEO's) of each of these cities and towns. In addition, there are 21 gubernatorial appointees and 14 agency (such as the DEM, Mass Port and MBTA) appointees on the Council. The 25 member elected Executive Committee meets 11 times a year. The full Council meets three times a year. Meetings are held at various localities throughout the region.

In order to serve its communities better, MAPC has organized eight subregions. These groups are composed of representatives from the member communities and a MAPC staff planner. The groups meet on a regular basis to discuss and work on issues of subregional concern.

The Town is a member of the North Suburban Planning Council (NSPC) subregion, a group of nine communities. Over the past year, a major focus of the group was transportation. NSPC submitted three projects for consideration in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and heard presentations on the congestion management system plan. In addition, NSPC continued its dialogue with State transportation agencies on safety and congestion issues at the I-93/128 Interchange. NSPC also worked with CTPS on the signalized intersection study.

The NSPC special project for the year was an update of the water supply maps previously done in 1992. This special project resulted in two GIS maps for use by the communities and a technical memorandum. NSPC also began an ongoing relationship with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Watershed Initiative through regular communication with the four basin team leaders.

The group heard a presentation on the MAPC initiative on regional services and municipal spending trends.

Two projects in the NSPC subregion were approved for the Transportation Enhancement Program for FY 1998. The two were: the North Suburban Bike Path project in North Reading and the Tri-Community Bikeway in Woburn, Stoneham and Winchester. Each year, MAPC through a committee process evaluates and recommends projects for inclusion in the funding program. They then work with the communities to help get the projects implemented. Additionally, two projects in the subregion were advertised in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 1998. They were the Route 28 project (Main Street/North Street) in North Reading and the Route 28 signalization project in Reading.

On the region wide scale, the agency is involved with so many programs and issues that it is not possible to mention them all. However, the following list should give some idea of the breadth of activities, responsibilities and challenges the agency has met over the past year. Among the most active initiatives for 1998 were the following four:

Build-Out Analysis

The agency developed and refined its methodology this past year as it worked on build out reports for 12 communities.

Master Plans
The agency worked with a record number of communities on local master plan studies.

Innovative Project Awards
The agency received two new types of major grants from federal organizations– a 'Welfare to Work' grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to look at sustainable taxation policies.

Major Multi-Organization Collaborations
The agency worked closely with other Regional Planning Agencies (RPA's) citizens, legislators, business community members and non-profits on such projects as Southeastern Massachusetts Vision 2020; the I-495 Technology Corridor Initiative/Campaign for Shared Solutions and several separate Essex County initiatives that included working with the Essex County Selectmen's Association, Salem State College and the municipal administrators joint service effort.

During the past year, MAPC

- Played major roles in planning, organizing and hosting the national American Planning Association (APA) Annual Meeting that was held in Boston in April. Over 4,600 planners attended this Conference which was last held in the city 17 years ago.
- Worked with others to produce a special video on the importance of trees in the protection of a local watershed. The 28 minute video is called *Shedding Water.*
- Hosted several free ArcView geographic information system training sessions for Town representatives.
- Participated in a collaborative effort with Mass Audubon North Shore and Coastal Zone Management (CZM) North Shore to facilitate conservation subdivision design options.
- Participated on the Advisory Board of the statewide Citizen Planner Training Collaborative that provides a training curriculum for members of local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals.
- Completed several school enrollment studies.
- Provided mapping support for the Middlesex Canal Commission, a group working to restore parts of the historic canal.
- Developed, as part of a Municipal Incentive Grants (MIGS) Program, a video to help communities deal with electric deregulation.

- Created the second annual Council report that incorporated a series of maps in calendar format as part of the document. Each month's map is devoted to a different regional demographic subject.
- Developed a build out analysis for six I-495 communities combined with a report on the infrastructure capacity of present water, sewer and roadway conditions.
- Completed a Nonpoint Source Management Plan for one of the subregions.
- Introduced the practice of writing bi-monthly newsletters for each of the subregions.
- Worked as a facilitator with a local committee that is developing a master plan for a major local open space and drinking water reservoir area.
- Brought national speakers such as Myron Orfield and Jane Holtz Kay to the Council to inform and challenge local thinking on planning issues.
- Continued working with Boston's Cardinal Law on Challenge to Leadership effort – now called Metropolitan Affairs Coalition.
- Strengthened its ties with environmental groups and the national park service on its Boston Harbor Island National Recreational Area project.
- Received, processed and distributed to the appropriate communities over 200 Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's) and/or Environmental Notification Forms (ENF's) during the past year. Completed an in-depth review, analysis, discussion and tracking of four EIR's and wrote comments on another 48.
- Applied for and received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Sustainable Development Grant to look at sustainable tax policy – looking at models across the country of tax sharing and mechanisms for enhancing interlocal cooperative agreements in the context of their political feasibility.
- Received a U.S. Department of Labor grant for $4.1 million to work on the 'welfare to work' issue. MAPC set up a collaborative of eight partners – non-profits, regional employment boards and businesses to address the issue.
- Solicited, reviewed and recommended projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Worked closely with local members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

- Conducted an inventory and review of all 25 wastewater treatment facilities in the region.
- Updated the Community Profiles data department publication, completed a five-year Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) report and embarked on a second five-year program.
- Completed and distributed a report on fish processing in the State. The project was funded by Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD).
- Finished designing software for two towns to track their Title 5 permitting programs.
- Provided a workshop for City and Town Clerks to help prepare them for the upcoming 2000 census. These sessions known as Local Update Census Addresses (LUCA) workshops were held in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Held three metropolitan forums on the Mass Watershed Initiatives Program to help bring information about the program to local officials throughout the region.
- Coordinated with the SuAsCo Watershed Group to develop a watershed community council.
- Collaborated with a multi-agency organization that reviewed and commented on the MWRA's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) plan.
- Tracked and supported more than 15 bills in the State legislature. Engaged in an extensive letter-writing campaign in support of the creation of the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information.
- Lobbied hard for the restoration of funding for the Municipal Incentive Grants (MIG's) Program.
- Held monthly legislative committee meetings where members heard speakers from a wide range of governmental agencies and committees discuss relevant legislative initiatives.
- Worked to help communities with their ISTEA Transportation Enhancement Program applications. Organized the committee that acted on the staff recommendations for funding priorities.
- Functioned as staff for Mass Highway System (MHS) Advisory Board that among other efforts reviewed the proposal to develop two air rights parcels over the Mass Turnpike at Mass Avenue in Boston.

- Participated in a wide variety of forums, workshops, seminars, etc. as featured speakers, panel members, facilitators, researchers, hosts, sponsors, conveners, organizers, etc.
- Had three staff members pass the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) exam.
- Continued to work with the local communities on the reuse plan for the South Weymouth Naval Air Station. Completed a study on the potential impact of the recently accepted reuse plan on the streets and neighborhoods of Rockland and Hingham.
- Helped to complete the Mass Bay Commons publication that was prepared by students at Harvard Graduate School of Design. Distributed the document and promoted the regional open space concept at various meetings and through a variety of organization's newsletters.
- Continued to respond to requests from communities for information on zoning, land use, environmental regulations, data and planning.
- Worked with Billerica and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and three MAPC towns to study the impacts of defense contract reductions, and the tools local governments have available to prepare for and mitigate these impacts. The project team convened focus groups and a major forum and published a report.
- Encouraged communities to consider concentrating development around transportation nodes. Created a design guideline booklet illustrating how this could fit into a community setting at a proposed commuter train terminus.
- Worked with municipal administrators to look into the idea of organizing sub-regional committees for the purpose of shared services.
- Cooperated with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) on informing the public about the new Watershed Basin Team project.

Regulatory Activities

In 1998, there were 32 RDA, ANORAD and NOI filings; 59 determinations and orders (including enforcement orders and amendments) and 14 Certificates of Compliance issued, 89 public hearings or meetings held, 33 administrator minor project sign-offs and review of 300 building permits. There were 234 staff inspections performed and 75 group Commission site visits. Total fees collected were $7,979.04 under the local bylaw and $1,756.25 under the State law.

One restraining order was obtained, 3 new appeals were filed and one appeal resolved. Ten Conservation Restrictions were negotiated with owners on unbuilt portions of their developments.

When completed, a total of 16 Conservation Restrictions will protect 47 Acres of Open Space. Enforcement Orders were avoided with the voluntary resolution of violations. Survival of the restoration plantings at the Route 93 gas spill is pending. The wetlands replanting at the water treatment plant will be re-attempted in the Spring but all other work has been completed.

Natural Resources Activity

Conservation participated on the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Spence Farm Study Committees. Thanks to Steve Carpenter for work in the Sledge Woods Conservation Area on his Eagle Scout project.

Nancy Eaton, Chair and Stephen Chapman, Vice Chair, were re-elected. We were saddened by the death of M. Clifton Proctor who had served on the Commission for 18 years. Other Members are John Casciano, William Finch, Mark Gillis and Harold Hulse. Leo Kenney was appointed as a Consultant to the Commission. Mr. Chapman resigned having served 5 ½ years. Also, Kathleen Smith, John Kilburn and David Davis completed terms of service. Donald Nadeau resigned as Administrator having served nine years. Volunteers or associates are needed in both the Regulatory and Natural Resources of the Commission's jurisdiction.

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Graphics:

Graphic #1 – New in Town business Bagel World opened in the Fall of 1998.
Graphic #2 – The Sunset Rock Development was one of three Definitive Sub-divisions reviewed by the Community Planning and Development Commission.
Graphic #3 – The Cumberland Farms building on Salem Street received Site Plan Approval from the Community Planning and Development Commission.
Graphic #4 – Construction at the Coolidge Middle School is currently underway.

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Board of Selectmen

In January 1998, Daniel Ensminger announced his intentions of not running for re-election. Bruce MacDonald announced his intentions of running for re-election, and was elected to his second three year term on the Board. Matthew J. Nestor was elected to his first three year term on the Board of Selectmen.

Personnel and Volunteers

The Board of Selectmen established the Ad Hoc Reading Business Park Advisory Committee to serve as an advisory committee regarding the sale of the landfill. The Board modified the policy on the Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee reducing the membership to five members, and changed the name of the Arts Council to the Cultural Council.

As part of the franchise renewal with Media One, a public access corporation was established. The Selectmen were responsible for appointing the "seed" Board for the Reading Public Television, Inc. in 1998.

The Board accepted resignations from the following volunteers: Elizabeth Geraghty (Cultural Council), Ronald Morse (Cultural Council), Laura DiBacco (Cultural Council), Anne Marie Whilton (Cultural Council), Stephen G. Tucker (Board of Appeals), Jean Garofoli (Board of Health), Martha W. Walters (Board of Registrars), Edward F. Murphy, Jr. (Bylaw Committee), Richard B. Cohen (Cable TV Advisory Committee), Kevin A. Kirwin (Cable TV Advisory Committee), Brenda Smith (Cable TV Advisory Committee), Susan DeMatteo (CPDC), Stephen A. Chapman (Conservation Commission), David J. Danis (Conservation Commission), John W. Kilborn (Conservation Commission), M. Clifton Proctor (Conservation Commission), Mary F. Mundjer (Council on Aging), Ellen O'Hara (Council on Aging), Alan W. Ulrich (Historical Commission), Pamela Andren (Recreation Committee), David H. Bryant (Substance Abuse Advisory Council), Gaynell Knowlton (Substance Abuse Advisory Council), Lisa A. Sinclair (Substance Abuse Advisory Council), Steven H. Sliwoski (Substance Abuse Advisory Council).

Environmental

Although the effects of the 1992 gasoline tank accident on I-93 has been cleared up, water restrictions remained in effect during 1998 for purposes of protecting the Ipswich River.

In May of 1998, the Board voted to amend the hours of the Stage 2 Water Conservation Program to allow outdoor water use from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on odd and even day, depending on street address.

1998 was the first full year of modified Compost Center hours.

Community

Many issues went before the Board of Selectmen in 1998. Hearings were held regarding the siting of cellular communication equipment on the Auburn Street Water Tower. After the residents in the neighborhood voiced their concerns, the Board of Selectmen voted to not allow Sprint to put antennas on the Auburn Street Water Tower. That action by the Board of Selectmen resulted in Sprint filing a lawsuit against the Town.

The Board also held hearings on use of the Town owned property on Symonds Way for recreation and/or a firing range for the Reading Police Department. This issue continued into 1999.

A joint venture was entered into with the YMCA of Greater Boston, Inc. to construct an indoor swimming pool.

The Cable TV Agreement was renewed for 10 years with Media One. As a result of this agreement, a public access corporation was established.

Real Estate

Real estate issues topped the agenda for the Selectmen in 1998.

- The sale of the Reading Business Park was first priority for the Selectmen and after going out to bid twice in 1998, the Town selected Corporex as the developer to negotiate with. These negotiations will continue into 1999.
- The building at 13 Union Street was demolished to make way for the new Police Station. Construction of the new Police Station began and the Selectmen approved the demolition of the old Police Station for use as parking.
- The Selectmen donated the lot of land on the corner of Wilson and Pleasant Streets to the Reading Housing Authority for use for two affordable housing units. The Housing Authority is planning on moving the house from Brande Court to this location.
- A Town owned lot on Grove Street was sold, and the historical Foster Emerson House was moved to that location.
- The Selectmen also considered acquisition of the Longwood Poultry Farm and Spence Farm for open space. The property is restricted until 2003 by a right of first refusal, and no action on this property is feasible until that time.

Transportation Improvements

Reconstruction of Route 129 began in 1998. Reconstruction of the Mineral Street Bridge continued. Reconstruction of the Mill Street Bridge was completed. Improvements were made to Walnut Street; Charles Street/Rustic Lane and sidewalks. Three signals on Main Street; Prescott/Summer Avenue; Regional Bikeway Study.

TOWN CLERK

Elections

In addition to the Local Election held on March 24, 1998, we also held two State Elections. The Primary was held on September 15th and the State Election was held on November 3rd. While voter turnout for the Local Election was fairly low -- 14.99% -- it improved somewhat for the Primary -- 26.2% -- and reached 60% for the State Election in November.

Board of Registrars

Martha Walters resigned her seat on the Board of Registrars in January. Her vacancy was filled by Anne Taylor, who along with the other members William Hancock, Gloria Hulse and Town Clerk Cheryl Johnson, certified 1,332 new voters, various petitions and nomination papers and assisted voters on election days.

Census

The Annual Town Census was conducted in January, entirely by mail, with a total of 8600 forms mailed to residences.

The local Census assists Town Clerks in putting together the Street List (resident book) and the Jury List. Major functions served by an annual local census are:

- Information collected for municipal purposes
- School needs
- Growth and planning needs
- Resident identification for Police and Fire
- Collection of dog information
- Information for the Jury Commissioners
- Determining inactive voter status for voter purge as required by the National Voter Registration Act.

Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting in April was completed in four sessions, approving a budget for Fiscal Year 1999 in the amount of $49,781,664. Various amendments to the General Bylaws were passed, and after general discussion by Town Meeting members and presentations by proponents of the project, Town Meeting voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the YMCA and the Reading Ice Arena Authority for the construction of a new swimming pool.

A Special Town Meeting was held in September to amend the Capital Improvements Program -- FY 1999–FY 2008 -- and to approve an amendment to the Zoning By-Law regarding Adult Use.

The Subsequent Town Meeting in November was completed in three sessions. Funding in the amount of $16,000 was approved for the purpose of rubbish collection and recycling from condominiums. Town Meeting also voted an amendment to the Nursing Home Bylaw and the Sign Bylaw.

A Special Town Meeting was called on December 7, 1998 where Town Meeting voted $8,910,000 for the purpose of constructing a new elementary school on Dividence Road and $6,585,000 for an addition to the Alice M. Barrows School.

A referendum petition was then circulated among the voters in Town and enough signatures were collected to call a Special Election in January in which the voters will decide whether or not to uphold the vote of Town Meeting. At least 20% of the eligible voters must vote in the election to overturn a vote of Town Meeting.

Vital Statistics and Licensing

During the calendar year 1998, the following Vital Statistics were recorded in the Town Clerk's Office:

Births - 310 Marriages - 100 Deaths - 212

Also issued were 1696 dog licenses, 121 business certificates, 29 renewals for underground storage tanks and 64 cemetery deeds.

A total of 417 Fish and Wildlife Licenses were issued during the year for a total of $10,999.25. Of this total, the Town retained $384.85.

Total receipts collected in the Clerk's Office for the calendar year 1998 amounted to $49,377.42.

TOWN COUNSEL REPORT

During 1998, H Theodore Cohen, Cheryl A. Blaine, Nancy Kaplan and Matthew E. Mitchell all of the firm of Keegan, Werlin & Pabian, LLP continued to provide legal services to every officer, board, department, commission and committee in the Town of Reading. As has been the case in recent years, real estate, litigation and land use issues dominated the demand for legal services, with real estate matters predominating.

With regard to real estate:

- The Town acquired 13 Union Street as the site of a new Police Station, and also acquired abutting property for development of a parking lot;
- The Town obtained deeds for open space and recreational use from Summit Village and Presidential Development Corporation;

- The Town transferred land to save the Foster-Emerson House which is subject to conservation and historic preservation restrictions;
- The Town resolved its lawsuit against Sears Development Co. and Lawyers Title Insurance Company for the return of the deposit given by Homart for failure to purchase the former landfill; and in connection with the former landfill, we have been involved with the Selectmen and the various advisory committees in negotiating its closure with DEP, and in developing the RFP and reviewing proposals for its sale.
- In addition, much activity was expended with regard to title matters relating to parcels of property that may be given to the Town and with regard to potential school sites.

With regard to litigation:

- The Town's lawsuit against Video Expo continued with a revision of the Town's Adult Use Zoning By-Law occasioned by the Court's preliminary action in this matter;
- The Town has intervened and has appealed the proceeding brought by the P&S Convenient Store challenging the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission's action in revoking/denying it a Keno license;
- The Town has continued its litigation with regard to Thomas Goddard/Eric's Greenhouses relating to a 1988 Agreement for Judgment and also with regard to alleged violations of the Town's Wetlands By-Law;
- Numerous appeals against the Town's Board of Appeals have been resolved in the Town's favor most notably with regard to matters involving the grandfathered status of particular parcels of property and development rights utilizing an access easement;
- Litigation both against the Conservation Commission and the Community Planning and Development Commission has been pending during the year with regard to a proposed subdivision off of Marion Road.
- Further, numerous matters relating to the Contributory Retirement Board were heard and decided this year with regard to various members of the Police Department and various members of the Municipal Light Department.

School Department issues primarily related to public records, the open meeting law, the conflict of interest law, personnel matters and special need students.

Finally, much effort was expended on behalf of the Town with regard to the new Cable Television License with MediaOne, the issue of licensing antennas on the Town's water tower, the license with the YMCA, and numerous issues relating to the Annual, Special and Subsequent Town Meetings.

It was a very busy year.

READING HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Reading Housing Authority has had a very challenging and successful year. In our continuing efforts to find new and innovative ways to provide housing for low-moderate income families, the Board has explored new possibilities to meet this challenge.

The Board of Selectmen voted to transfer ownership of the lot at Pleasant and Wilson Street to the Reading Housing Authority. Coincidentally, the Atlantic Supermarket purchased the house at 8 Brande Court and the Town accepted ownership of the building and lot. The Town plans to expand the parking area by demolishing the house and paving the lot. The Authority was asked if this structure could be used to meet the housing needs of the community. After careful exploration of this building and the Pleasant Street lot by both a structural and civil engineer, the Board determined that the building would be useful to the Authority. An informational meeting was held with the Pleasant Street neighborhood. The neighbors voiced their displeasure about anything being done on this lot, and noted the severe problems they had with drainage and flooding in the area.

After study and review by the Reading Conservation Commission, and also the State's Department of Environmental Management, it was determined that the lot was buildable and the Authority filed for a permit to move this building to the Pleasant Street lot. The Conservation Commission voted favorably on this with mandated requirements to protect the area. The Authority plans to move the Brande Court building to this lot. We look forward to working with the neighbors to rectify some of the issues relative to the drainage and flooding problems in the area.

The State has recently awarded a modernization grant to the Authority in the amount of $175,000 to replace the windows at the Tannerville development. We have also been able to secure the funds to provide a Resident Service Coordinator to deal with the elderly and non-elderly populations at our development. This grant will help with needed support and assistance to our tenants.

The Authority continues to qualify interested applicants for the Summit Village first time home buyers program. Interested families with gross earnings less than $60,000 per year may obtain an information and application packet from the Town Hall, Library or at the Authority's Office in order to apply and be placed on the waiting list. As units become available for resale, the Authority verifies the appraised value and approves the 20% discounted resale price.

The Authority operates a Family Self Sufficiency Program for its Section 8 tenants. The Program Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives from Senator Tisei's Office, local School Department, area banks and employment and training program representatives. We work with other organizations in the community to find training and employment assistance and support to help these families gain economic independence. We actively participate with the Reading Wakefield YMCA on development and growth of the Basic Education Program for the community. Interested mentors and volunteers are needed to work with participants of this program. Please contact our office or Liz Garrity at the Y for more information.

The Authority has an annual audit of all programs performed by an independent consultant. The past fiscal year's audit was just completed. There were no findings or recommendations reported and the Authority is financially sound.

The Authority continues to work to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing to low and moderate income families. We look forward to working with the Town officials, the Federal and State Agencies, area banks and developers to find new and innovative ways to create and implement programs that will help people of all income levels to find a home in the wonderful Town of Reading.

Respectfully submitted,

READING HOUSING AUTHORITY
Rev. Robert K. Sweet, Jr. – Chairman
Donald Allen – Vice Chairman and State Appointee
Mary Connors – Treasurer
Jean H. Galvin – Member
Timothy Kelly – Member
Karen Flammia – Associate Member
Margaret K. Plansky – Secretary and Executive Director

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
ELDER AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

The mission of the Elder and Human Services Division provides services, activities and educational opportunities for Reading residents age 60 and over, and also works with the adult children or friends of elders who have questions about gerontological concerns. Assistance is given to families and individuals under the age of 60.

The Division is committed to providing information enabling citizens to make decisions regarding their well being and quality of life. This past year, Reading Elder Services organized, co-led or participated in 170 programs that directly benefited our community. That is an average of 14 programs a month in addition to daily activities.

Daily activities include Meals on Wheels, grocery shopping, noontime lunch at the Center, information and assistance with problems, recreation events, class lessons, organizing volunteer opportunities, and transportation to appointments, activities, errands and the Center.

Additional choices include:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Whist	Aerobics	Knitters	Aerobics	BEST*
Family History	Bingo	Ceramics	Forum	Free & Sober**
Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	Bridge Lessons	Nutrition**
Movies	Chess	Watercolor	Oil Painting	
PACE	Movies	Word Games	Puzzle Mania	*Strength Training
Alzheimer **	Billiards	Billiards	Billiards	
	Health Proxy	Arthritis**	Fix It Shop	
	Veterans**	Low Vision**	Firehouse Chat	

** Support and Education Groups meet weekly such as Free and Sober AA, bi-weekly such as the Alzheimer Caregiver's group or monthly. An additional group is SPICE (Seniors Police In Cooperative Efforts).

Examples of the programs included crime, fraud and scam prevention, Sandwich Generation Group, Medicaid and long term care insurance, property tax exemptions, consumer assistance, health issues, Health Care Proxy workshops, Aging in Place Health Fair, Community Health Fair, Needs of the Elderly panel presentation, "brown bag" pharmacy program, nursing home placement, estate planning, Registry of Motor Vehicles Safe Driving Workshop, the life of an editor, and how a legacy is created for the next generation.

A six-part workshop of spirituality and aging incorporated local resources and speakers. SHINE (Serving the **H**ealth **I**nformation **N**eeds of **E**lders) assists people with Medicare and related health insurance questions and trained volunteers are available each week. The property tax work program continues to match residents with municipal and school departments that need help with short-term projects.

Educational classes, programs and support groups are held at the Center. The oil painting and watercolor classes are held at Tannerville. Teachers are paid directly by the students.

The Social Worker addresses critical needs and concerns. Assistance covers crisis intervention, case management, housing questions, intergenerational disputes, self neglect, loneliness, nursing home placement, eligibility screening for State and Federal services, information and referral, resource development, and coordination with area medical and social service agencies. Assisting relatives and friends of elders is an important aspect of this program. The Social Worker made 3,222 contacts with 1234 persons this past year to address those needs and concerns. The Social Worker and a volunteer nurse practitioner lead a bi-monthly support group for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

The Van Transportation Program provides an important service for senior citizens that no longer drive their own car, never did drive, or cannot afford "public" conveyances. Transportation is offered for medical appointments, local shopping and Elder Services sponsored activities. The van made 4,549 one way trips transporting 700 people.

The Administrator made 693 contacts to assist younger members of our community with questions about housing, financial difficulties, family situations and employment. The Administrator made 1,317 contacts regarding elder concerns and programs.

The Shopping Assistance Program aided 32 homebound persons who lack the ability to do their own shopping. The client provides the shopping list and the money to purchase groceries and medicines. The Shopping Coordinator made 475 contacts to facilitate this program.

The daily Nutrition Program is provided through cooperation with Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc. (MVES). MVES also provides assistance with homemakers, home health aides, legal services, protective services, information and referral and respite care.

A Meal Site Manager whose salary is paid by MVES supervises the noontime nutrition program. 5,234 meals were served. An average of 47 people each month participates in the lunch program. Socialization is an important component of the nutrition program.

The Meals on Wheels Coordinator oversees volunteer drivers who deliver a hot meal to a client's home at noontime. Nine hundred and ninety two people receive food through the home delivered food program. This averages 83 people per month. The roster of participants changes as people become well enough to prepare their own meals as compared to the people who continue to receive assistance. Elder Services staff, medical personnel, MVES case managers, and/or concerned family members or neighbors refer clients. Meal delivery includes evening meals, frozen meals for the weekend and twelve clinical diets. The clinical diets include heart, no concentrated sweets, diabetic, low or high fiber, low lactose, renal, pureed or special diets.

The Coordinator of Volunteers organizes volunteers who perform community services for our older population. The annual Volunteer Reception for 200 volunteers recognizes the contributions made by Reading citizens for Reading citizens. The Town wide Day of Caring raises awareness of the needs of our older neighbors. Intergenerational projects continue to be an important teaching tool for cooperation among the generations. Students do yard work, snow shoveling and develop pen pal contacts with many Reading residents. Coordination of Scouting and Campfire Groups yields approximately 60 children each month who make cards, tray favors and baked goods for the enjoyment of many people. Seniors went to the schools to discuss careers and events from their youth.

Volunteers are an integral part of Elder Service programming. Volunteers assist with income tax, Meals on Wheels delivery, medical escorts, class instructors, office volunteers, gardeners, program leaders, meal site, bingo, recreation opportunities, greetings cards, shopping volunteers, Summerfest Strawberry Festival, Medicare/Medigap insurance billing assistance, Fix-It, Knitters, Center receptionists, telephone reassurance, support group leaders and committees.

The local access cable company broadcasts the Motion to Music exercise class three days a week. The National Association of Retired Federal Employees holds its monthly meetings at the Center. Silver Haired Legislature elections in Reading selected Sally Hoyt as Representative and Walter Redding as Senator.

The Senior Citizen Property Tax assists qualified residents with their property tax bills by working in municipal and school departments. The workers "do those short time projects that regular staff never has time to complete because of other priorities." Several completed projects have given workers the opportunity to learn more about community government. Examples of projects include assistance with mass mailings, monitoring of Imagination Station during the Summer, overseeing the compost area during the week and projects in the Town Clerk's Office. Participants offer very favorable comments about this program.

A new program this year is the Home Minor Repair Program that matches local contractors with homeowners who need safety repairs done to their home. Plumbers, electricians and handyworkers coordinate with Elder Services to accomplish these projects. Part of the Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs subsidizes low-income participants on a sliding fee schedule so that home repairs can be accomplished.

A special grant was received to purchase a computerized telephone system that will assure that participating senior citizens are safe in their homes and to alert homeowners about public safety concerns. The project is done in cooperation with the Town's safety departments.

Many individuals and organizations have generously supported the Elder Services' agenda by providing money, gifts and inkind services. Individuals and organizations have given hospital equipment, postage stamps for the "sunshine card" program, flowers, plants, books, clothing, food, knitting supplies, games, magazines, gift certificates, materials for the wooden block project, food baskets, plated dinners and gifts.

This Division coordinates the Adopt-A-Family holiday programs. This year's donors included 119 individuals, 58 organizations, 25 youth organizations and 20 organizations and or individuals who specifically donated to senior citizens. Thanksgiving food baskets were given to 71 families and 85 senior citizens. Christmas food baskets were given to 67 families and 85 senior citizens. Christmas gifts were given to the 110 children and senior citizens received an outpouring of gifts and remembrances of the holidays.

The Elder Services Revolving Fund covers emergency situations for which people age 60+ do not have financial resources. The Shopping Revolving Fund pays travel reimbursement to the Shopping Coordinator. The Human Services Revolving Fund is for people under age 60 who do not have financial resources for emergency situations.

The Shopping Assistance Revolving Fund received $1143.34. Expenditures for travel reimbursement totaled $340.34. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs' Formula Grant pays the Coordinator's salary.

The Elder Services Revolving Fund received $2694.02. Additional revenues generated: van rider donations $220.05. Expenditures from the Elder Services Revolving Fund expended $457.19 on holiday food baskets, $108.00 for medical assistance and $204.00 for housing assistance. The Human Services Revolving fund received $600.00.

Jolyn Ek resigned her position as Social Worker the end of December. Edwina Kasper and Joanne O'Brien were welcomed as new members to the Council on Aging.

HEALTH DIVISION

The Board of Health in its mission is dedicated to improving the health and well being of Reading citizens, and to protect the environment from pollution and damage. The Division under the direction of the Board develops new programs and services to respond to health issues as they arise. The accomplishment of these programs is done in collaboration with the State and other Town agencies.

During 1998, the Division and the Board experienced a year of staff stability. All staff positions were filled. The Public Health Nurse increased hours from 18 to 24 hours per week. The Sealer of Weights and Measures was awarded for the second year the *item scanning* grant increased to $10,000. The tobacco control grant received an increase of $8,000. The total award $58,780 to be used for salary and programming within the two towns, Reading and Stoneham, of the collaborative. The Board of Health was stable with the Chairperson, James J. Nugent, R.S. and members Cynthia Richards, Ph.D. and Nancy Carlson, R.N.

The Health Division continued to support substance abuse prevention programs in the schools and community at large. Through grant writing, training and in an advisor role, the Division worked closely with high school students in peerleadership, Athletes for a Healthy Lifestyle, and Adopt-A-Student Athlete Programs. The Health Division Administrator has presented for the 7th year a "Captains' Leadership Workshop," a parent athlete speaker night on responsibility and chemical misuse. Part of the workshop was on harassment. More than 600 students attended.

The Town-wide Drug Free Week's mission is to offer a clear and consistent message to stay drug free. The theme of the week is "Healthy People for a Healthy Community." The focus of the week is family fun *without* the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs. During Drug Free Week, the Health Division presents a Health Fair with 52 exhibitors. The exhibitors offer information, health screenings, demonstrations and referrals. More than 1700 people participated in the Fair. It was a great community event. The Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Council held our second community talent show, *"Strut Your Stuff."* There were 11 acts showcasing all ages with a variety of creativity. High School students offered refreshments at intermission and well over 400 filled the audience.

Drug Free Week ended with a free family skate at the Burbank Arena. All programs are planned and presented in coordination and cooperation with the Health Division, Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Council and the Tobacco Control Program, Police, Fire and School Departments. The 1998 DFW was over 3500 people participating in three events. This was a successful week. The philosophy of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program is developed through the 16 member Council that is appointed by Selectmen. The programming is financed through the Town budget and the Safe and Drug Free Community and Schools Grant ($21780). The Council worked closely with the School Wellness Program and the Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program to deliver a clear and consistent message to the community. Finally, this year the Council administered the first baseline Youth Risk Behavior Survey to Reading students Grades 6–12. These results will help the Council continue to offer directed and appropriate programming.

Continuing with the prevention education, the Division presents voluntary workshops on sexuality for both young girls and boys, Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7, at the Reading Public Library. In 1998, the Public Health Nurse and two trained adolescent nurses presented the pre-adolescent workshops. 350 students and 70 parents participated.

Reading continues to be the lead fiscal Town receiving a grant for $58,768 in the coalition of the Reading/Stoneham Tobacco Control Program. The program for both communities dealt with smoking cessation groups for adults and adolescents, youth access regulation and compliance checks to educational program for all age groups within both towns. Many of the educational programs were presented in cooperation with the Schools, Recreation and Police Departments. Reading remains a smoke-free community and Stoneham is, as of September 1998, a smoke–free community.

The Public Health Nurse's responsibility is to follow-up on communicable diseases. This is a confidential and integral part of the job. Many hours are invested in each case. There were 255 Mantoux Testing (TB screening) completed. This is over a 200% increase from 1997. The annual Fall flu, tetanus, and pneumonia clinic were held at the end of October, 3100 doses were given or distributed. The clinics served 2090 people including 90 homebound visits. The second Health Division school site clinic for Hepatitis B immunized 600 students, Grades 6–12 -- at no charge to their families. 166 adults Town Employees from the following department's -- School, Water Treatment Plant and DPW were also immunized. Many hours were spent by the PHN to review the immunization records of children attending the 6 summer camps in Reading according to new camp regulations. To complement the work of the PHN, blood pressure clinics for the elders are provided by VNA Middlesex East and Winchester Visiting Nurse and Health Care. On an average, 100 individuals have their blood pressure taken per month including the appropriate counseling and referral.

The Health Inspector has been certified in pool and spa operation. This is a State requirement for local BOH to have in order to issue license for operation to public and semiprivate pools. There were 706 inspections completed. They were responses to complaints or routine inspections, issues. Food inspections continue to be within the State requirement at 2-3x per year, a total of (400). Twenty-four animal inspections have been completed two times and reported to the State.

Radon testing kits remain on sale for Reading residents through the Health Division and at the Library for convenience.

Part of our Title V Septic Betterment Grant of $200,000 has offered 3 low interest loans to Reading families to assist with financing sewer connection. Thirty systems have connected to Town sewer or repaired their subsurface disposal systems. Education, the real estate market and the law have influenced this number of repairs or connections in Town.

Contractual Services: The largest contractual service is mosquito control. The Town is part of the 20 member Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Project which provides mosquito wetland surveillance, larval and adult mosquito control, ditch maintenance and public education. The Eastern Middlesex Mosquito Control Project participates as a component of the State's Vector Control Plan to prevent Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The risk of EEE remains low.

Non-toxic BTi was applied to 301 acres of wetlands via helicopter; 1.5 acres of wetlands was sprayed with portable sprayers in high densities, stagnant water. Adult spraying of 3,954 acres was done by truck at night for high populations of nuisance mosquitoes.

Eastern Middlesex Outpatient Center offers mental health counseling, mental retardation and substance abuse care for children, adolescents, adults and families who have limited financial resources. In FY '98, the agency offered $64,247 of free care. EMARC served 12 clients. The regional program offers training for the individuals to work at local businesses. The Health Services Administrator participates in quarterly board meetings to assure Reading receives the appropriate care.

Dead animal pickup continues with this year total pick up at 368 animals from public ways. The Health Division continues to offer regional rabies immunization programs with the Town of Stoneham. 184 dogs and cats were immunized.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures has checked and sealed 210 gasoline pumps and scales.

Revenues for FY 1998	Programs and Licenses $31,821
	Grants $118,625

RECREATION DIVISION

The mission of the Reading Recreation Division is to provide the community with year round recreational activities. Recreation programs should be broad based to meet the recreational needs of all segments of the population. The Recreation Division must continually update and modify its programming to meet the current needs of the community. As the community's participation and awareness of local recreational programs increase, so does their expectation of Recreation Division programs. The Recreation Division must be ready to anticipate and adapt to these growing expectations.

The Reading Recreation Division offers a variety of programs to residents of all ages. A direct programming emphasis has been placed on Reading Middle School and elementary school aged youth. The Recreation Revolving Fund continued to fund all programs for 1998. The Recreation Committee, with nine members and three associate members, provides guidance and support to the Recreation Division. Ginger Butler, Recreation Principal Clerk, continues to be an integral part of the Reading Recreation program.

Programming

Summer

The summer of '98 was another success for Reading Recreation. The Summer Camp program provided fun-filled activities for 620 Reading youth. The regular camp was complemented by a successful Junior Camp Program. This year, campers enjoyed weekly field days, and each camper received a Reading Recreation T-shirt. Reading Recreation expanded its already successful Junior Counselor in training program for youths in Grades 7 and 8. This program provided early teens with their first work experience in a day camp setting. Reading Recreation will continue to improve its camp program next season. In 1999, camp will once again be held at the Reading Memorial High School. Reading Recreation will also be adding a drama component to the camp program. The Recreation Division has recommended an increase in its camp fee to balance the increase in estimated 1999 expenses.

The Grant Municipal Pool provided another action filled Summer for the hundreds of local residents. The American Red Cross Swim Instruction is extremely popular year to year because of its qualified staff and a simplified learning format. Reading Recreation added a weekday Water Tot Program that was very well received by parents. The Open Swim Program continued to run with hours during the week and weekend. With an extremely hot 1998 Summer, the open swim hours produced excellent fiscal results. With the addition of the new community pool at the Reading/Wakefield YMCA, 1999 will be the last season of operation for the Grant Municipal Pool.

Various clinics sponsored by Reading Recreation ran throughout the Summer: Field hockey, soccer for all ages, baseball, basketball, challenger baseball and tennis, youth and adult tennis lessons, track and field, super sports camp, volleyball and super sports. Reading Recreation also offered weekly track meets during the month of July. The track program continued to draw hundreds of participants per competition. It is our hope that in 1999 these clinics and more will be offered to the community. Reading Recreation is also planning on increasing its summer offerings by expanding the ages and weeks of existing programs.

"Theater in the Green" for children of all ages on Wednesday afternoons and "A Touch of Class" concerts for the community on Sunday evenings were again offered. Funding was secured through local business sponsorship, and donations collected at the concerts. Recreation hopes to increase the sponsorships for 1999. Reading Recreation will continue to try to offer a wider variety of performances to help the concerts stay fresh and exciting. The "Touch of Class" concert series has been increased from six concerts to seven concerts.

The Friends of Reading Recreation continued its tennis tournament tradition. The successful tournament was enjoyed by dozens of participants.

Fall

Some of the programs offered to residents in the Fall of '98 included a mix of new and old programs. Again, Reading Recreation continues to try to meet the needs of all those in the community. Fall programs included, roller hockey, a series of middle school early release trips, recreational basketball, travel basketball, youth wrestling, challenger soccer, special skates, indoor tennis, junior and adult golf lessons, junior golf leagues, cross country meets, indoor track meets, learn to ski programs, science workshops, super sports programs, and a learn to baby sit day at the local middle school. Reading Recreation also offered a variety of family trips and activities including gingerbread decorating, holiday shopping, and overnight trips to a number of exciting vacation spots.

Basketball continues to be the program of choice for the Fall and Winter. Over 500 Reading youths participate in the thirteen weeks of the Sunday program, which offers a combination of skill introduction and game play. Reading Recreation also is the sponsor of 8 travel basketball teams that play up to a 22 game season. Both the Travel and Sunday Basketball Program were revised in 1998 and will continue to be revised in 1999. The Reading Recreation Committee would like to eventually have its Travel Basketball Program become privatized.

Reading Recreation continues to be the sponsor of the Reading Odyssey of the Mind Program. Working with the School Department and parent groups, Reading Recreation has expanded its traditional athletic programming to include one the most successful enrichment programs in the country. Students in Grades K-12 are invited to participate with a team of their peers in solving long term and short term problems. For the 1998-1999 season, Reading Recreation is proud to sponsor 6 teams in the program. Recreation hopes this program will continue to expand in the 1999-2000 season.

Winter/Spring

Some of the programs in the works for the Winter/Spring of 1999 include: Early release programs, open recreation, indoor golf, science workshops, indoor track meets, tot vacation soccer, baseball clinics, indoor tennis, challenger basketball, super sports, a fun run road race, piano lessons, playgroup, fitness club, various health and wellness programs, and the fifth annual Town-wide egg hunt. Reading Recreation also coordinates a number of adult and family trips through Colette Tours.

Recreation sponsors professional lecturer Bob Bigellow to speak with parents and coaches on adult behavior in youth sports.

Spinning Wheels

Recreation continues to work with Spinning Wheels and its Director Drew Bililies in recreation programming for children with special needs. Recreation and Spinning Wheels will be coordinating with the Parent Advisory Council 766 on increased programming for children with special needs.

Brochure

Reading Recreation has modified its brochure mailing procedure and now coordinates a Town-wide advertising effort in Reading's first Community Program Guide. Participating agencies include Recreation, Continuing Education, Police Department, Fire Department, School Department, Library Services, Health Division, Elder Services, YMCA, Creative Arts and various Town organizations.

Personnel

The Recreation Division has expanded its staffing by .4 hours with the addition of the Youth Program Coordinator position. The Youth Program Coordinator works 15 hours a week from October until April. The main responsibility of the position is to create, organize and supervise after school programming for the elementary and middle school student. This year ,Daphne Smith was hired as Reading's first ever Youth Program Coordinator. Daphne will be working closely with the Reading School Department and various after school agencies to coordinate a variety of after school programming. The Youth Program Coordinator will also be responsible for supervising the daily operations of the Odyssey of the Mind Program. With the assistance of the Youth Program Coordinator, the Recreation Division hopes to increase 1999 Summer programming.

Administration

Capital Improvements completed in 1998 included the Parker Middle School Soccer Field (Collins Field), Killam Elementary School Playground, Barrow School Tennis and Basketball Courts, Sturgis Park Tennis and Basketball Courts and various irrigation systems. Protective fencing was also installed at a number of our youth baseball and softball fields. Recreation and the Department of Public Works have plans to continue reconditioning the remaining Town of Reading recreational facilities in 1999.

Reading Recreation also is continuously looking for available land for the development of new recreational facilities.

The major league baseball diamond at Washington Park was named the John B. Pacino Field during a dedication ceremony in October.

The Recreation Committee has established a new practice permit policy. The Committee hopes that this new policy will eliminate many of the field constraints during the Spring sport season.

The Reading Recreation Committee continues to monitor the permitting policy of the Imagination Station Playground. Imagination Station facility permits will help the Recreation Division control facility use.

The Reading Recreation Division and the Recreation Committee continue to develop policies that will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of each Reading Recreation program.

Reading Recreation has been glad to offer the public over 100 recreational programs throughout the year, and hopes to meet the communities changing recreational needs, providing them with a combination of safe fun, and educational programs.

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Paul A. Farrell is the Veteran's Agent for the Town working an average of 14.5 hours per week. Veteran's Services is governed by Chapter 115 of the General Laws. Veterans and his/her immediate family who are in need that qualify are eligible for benefits. Initial paper work is processed locally, final approval of benefits come from the Commissioner of Veteran's Services in Boston, MA.

Additional Veteran's Administration expenditures for FY '98 for a Reading veteran population of approximately 1955 was $1,362,000. These benefits were paid directly to recipients and/or their dependents by the Veteran's Administration not through the Town budget. $6618 was expended through the Town budget, 75% of which is reimbursed by the State. There were 139 active cases in 1998 with 84 current pending cases.

The total appropriation as voted at Town Meeting was $7500 for FY 1998. Leaving a balance of $782 as of June 30, 1998. On July 1, 1998 the appropriation was $7500 -- a balance of $4440 remains for FY '99.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **March 9, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:42 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Gail F. Wood, Precinct 2, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 1 be tabled.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, it was moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the bid related to the retail use of the landfill on Walkers Brook Road, for consideration given, such acceptance shall be made on or before July 1, 1999.

Motion does not carry.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 2 be tabled.

ARTICLE 3 - On motion by George C. Hines, Precinct 5, it was voted to amend the FY 1998-FY 2007 Capital Improvements Program as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter by adopting the amended Capital Improvements Plan as included in the Warrant report for the Special Town Meeting of March 9, 1998, pages 14-18.

ARTICLE 4 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was voted to amend one or more of the votes taken under Article 22 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of April 14, 1997 as amended under Article 5 of the Subsequent Town Meeting of November 10, 1997 relating to the Fiscal Year 1998 Municipal Budget, and to raise from available funds and appropriate as described the following sums for the operation of the Town and its government:

BUDGET #	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE in Adopted Budget	NEW BUDGET AMOUNT	Source of Funds
C6	Assessor's – Appraisal Services	$25,000	$25,000	Lottery Receipts
J1	School – Personal Services – Custodian - retroactive pay	$39,776	$21,310,801	Free Cash
K3	Capital-Data Processing-fiber optic connection for GIS	$27,000	$55,000	Lottery Receipts
L3	Employee Benefits- Unemployment	$10,000	$30,000	Lottery Receipts

BUDGET #	DESCRIPTION	CHANGE in Adopted Budget	NEW BUDGET AMOUNT	Source of Funds
K40	Capital – Elementary School enrollment-architectural feasibility	$50,000	$50,000	Free Cash
	NET BUDGET MODIFICATIONS	**$151,776**		

On motion by Gail F. Wood, Precinct 2, to amend Line item K40 from $50,000 to - 0 -

Motion to amend Line item K40 does not carry.

Original motion carries.

ARTICLE 5 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of Four Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars ($4,400,000) for the purpose of constructing a new Police Station on land currently owned by the Town at 13 Union Street, and abutting property, including the cost of original furnishings and equipment, architectural fees, engineering fees, inspection fees, relocation costs, contingencies and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, and to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said Police Station and related matters, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article.

Report by William F. Lavoie, Neighborhood Representative:

POLICE STATION NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Last fall the Police Station Building Committee unanimously recommended to Town Meeting the Union/Middle Street site. The Max Ferro study found advantages in terms of cost and benefits to the Town as a whole. The Downtown business community likes it because it will help clean up this corner of the square and increase Police presence. It will provide uninterrupted operation of the Police Department. The neighborhood is in support of the location. The site was available, and there was interest for the reuse of the existing Police facility by community groups. Town meeting then voted in favor of the committees recommendation and we have now had time to put things into perspective in relation to the neighborhood.

Donham and Sweeney Architects will present to you tonight, a project that will meet with the neighborhood concerns regarding building size, shape and location on the site. This building will blend well in our eyes and will still not interfere with the neighborhood needs for continued off-street parking. The Town Manager, Architect and Project Manager seem to be willing to work with us in our concerns for privacy. Eric-Jason Smith is a committee member whose

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	TOTA
CD-C-03	OPEN SP, REC ACQU-A		40.0 A		40.0 A		40.0 A		40.0 A		40.0 A	200.
CD-C-03	OPEN SP, REC ACQU-G		60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G	300.
SUBTOTAL	CONSERVATION		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	500.
CD-P-02	E MAIN ST PARKING-A	10.0 A										10.
CD-P-02	E MAIN ST PARKING-G	300.0 G										300.
SUBTOTAL	PLANNING	310.0										310.
FN- -02	REPL DATA PROC EQ-A	55.0 A	50.0 A	64.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	50.0 A	519.
FN- -02	REPL DATA PROC EQ-S	3.5 E	25.0 E	8.0 E								36.
FN- -02	REPL DATA PROC EQ-W	3.5 E	25.0 E	8.0 E								36.
SUBTOTAL	FINANCE	62.0	100.0	80.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	592.
HS-E-01	REPL VAN ELDER SERV			52.4 A					60.8 A			113.
SUBTOTAL	HUMAN SERV.			52.4					60.8			113.
LR- -01	LIBRARY COMPUTERS	25.5 A	18.9 A		49.2 A	6.0 A		6.3 A	21.0 A		5.0 A	131.
L -02	LIBRARY CIRCULATION											
L -03	LIBRARY FURNISHINGS	21.2 A	6.3 A		5.1 A		5.1 A		5.1 A		5.1 A	47.
SUBTOTAL	LIBRARY	46.7	25.2		54.3	6.0	5.1	6.3	26.1		10.1	179.
PS-F-07	REPLACE PUMPER					250.0 D						250.
PS-F-08	REPLACE AMBULANCE				102.5 A					116.0 A		218.
PS-F-10	REPLACE CHIEF'S VEH	26.0 A						30.0 A				56.
PS-F-11	REPLACE RESCUE TOOL	25.0 A										25.
PS-F-13	REPL BREATHING APPA	64.0 A										64.
PS-F-15	PURCH SKID PUMP						8.0 A					8.
PS-F-17	REPLACE FIRE HOSE						9.4 A					9.
PS-F-18	REHAB ENGINE 3			16.0 A								16.
SUBTOTAL	FIRE	115.0		16.0	102.5	250.0	17.4	30.0		116.0		646.
PS-P-02	REPLACE RADIO EQUIP				5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	35.
PS-P-03	MOBILE DATA TERM	35.0 A					25.0 A					60.
PS-P-06	PURCH PORT RADIOS	7.3 A	6.1 A	6.1 A								19.
PS-P-07	PURCH REPEATER	12.5 A										12.
SUBTOTAL	POLICE	54.8	6.1	6.1	5.0	5.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	127.
PW-B-02	RECON LIB PRKG LOT	55.0 A										55.
PW-B-04	EQU MAINT EXPANSION		40.0 A		500.0 D							540.
-05	FUEL TANK REMOVAL-D		25.0 A	25.0 A								50.

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PW-B-07	MEZZANINE AT DPW GA		10.0 A									10.0
PW-B-08	ROOF REPAIRS	32.5 A	9.6 A						30.0 A			72.1
PW-B-09	CONST. NEW POL. STA	50.0 A										50.0
PW-B-09	CONSTR. NEW POL. ST	4400.0 D										4400.0
PW-B-11	TOWN FACILITY MAINT	35.0 A	55.0 A	80.0 A	35.0 A	32.0 A	55.0 A	15.0 A	50.0 A	17.0 A	30.0 A	404.0
PW-B-12	REPAIR/REPL. WINDOW	20.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	25.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	125.0
PW-B-12	WATERPROOF MASNRY T		65.0 A									65.0
PW-B-13	AIR SYST. IMP. FIRE	93.2 A										93.2
SUBTOTAL	BUILDINGS	4685.7	214.6	115.0	560.0	42.0	65.0	25.0	90.0	27.0	40.0	5864.3
PW-C-07	LAUREL HILL RD REPA		10.0 A									10.0
SUBTOTAL	CEMETERY		10.0									10.0
PW-E-01	REPLACE BACKHOE/LOA					29.0 A	96.6 A	121.0 A	135.0 A	135.0 A	95.0 A	611.6
PW-E-04	REPLACE DUMP TRUCKS	38.0 A	41.0 A	134.0 A	68.0 A	68.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A		629.0
PW-E-05	REPLACE PICKUP TRUC	36.0 A		23.6 A	55.0 A					78.2 A		192.8
PW-E-07	REPLACE SIDEWALK PL	60.0 A					60.0 A					120.0
PW-E-09	VEHICLE HOT TOP SPR	30.0 A										30.0
PW-E-10	REPLACE SNOW PLOWS	12.0 A		25.0 A	13.0 A	13.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A		32.0 A	140.0
PW-E-11	REPLACE MOWER	35.0 A		61.0 A		30.0 A						126.0
PW-E-12	REPLACE COMPRESSOR			15.0 A	5.0 A			12.0 A				32.0
PW-E-13	REPLACE 85 TRAILER										8.0 A	8.0
PW-E-15	REPLACE CATCH BASIN	85.0 A										85.0
PW-E-16	REPLACE SANDERS					14.0 A						14.0
PW-E-18	REPLACE SNOW BLOWER		218.8 A									218.8
PW-E-19	REPLACE BUCKET TRUC								90.0 A			90.0
PW-E-20	REPLACE CHIPPER							25.0 A				25.0
PW-E-21	REPLACE ROLLER	13.0 A			13.5 A						35.0 A	61.5
PW-E-23	REPLACE RACK/SPRAYE							70.0 A				70.0
PW-E-24	REPLACE SWEEPER						135.0 A					135.0
PW-E-25	FLEXIBLE ACCOUNT	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	100.0
SUBTOTAL	- EQUIPMENT	319.0	269.8	268.6	164.5	164.0	386.6	323.0	320.0	293.2	180.0	2688.7
PW-F-01	SHADE TREE NURSERY		5.1 A		5.3 A		5.6 A		5.6 A		6.2 A	27.8
SUBTOTAL	FORESTRY		5.1		5.3		5.6		5.6		6.2	27.8
PW-L-01	LANDFILL CLOSURE		1600.0 D									1600.0
PW-L-01	LANDFILL CLOSURE	13.0 A	4000.0 G									4013.0
PW-L-02	WASTE MATERIAL PROC		100.0 A	100.0 A								200.0
SUBTOTAL	SOLID WASTE	13.0	5700.0	100.0								5813.0
PW-P-03	FIELD/COURT/PLAYGRO	12.0 A	12.0 A	12.0 A	12.0 A	5.0 A	7.0 A	7.0 A	7.0 A	7.0 A		81.0
PW-P-05	INDOOR SWIM FACILIT		500.0 D									500.0
PW-P-05	INDOOR SWIM FACILIT		1500.0 CO									1500.0

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	TOTAL
PW-P-06	PITMAN BICYCLE PATH		250.0 G									250.0
PW-P-07	TENNIS CT STORAGE S			12.0 A								12.0
SUBTOTAL	PARKS	12.0	2262.0	24.0	12.0	5.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0		2343.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE BANCROFT	20.0 G		40.0 G								60.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE BRIARWOOD		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE FOREST						100.0 G					100.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE FOREST GL			20.0 G								20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GARDNER			10.0 G								10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GREEN ST			25.0 G								25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE HARTSHORN				40.0 G							40.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE HAVEN STR			30.0 G								30.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE HIGHLAND			24.0 G								24.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE IDE ST		10.0 G									10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE JOHN ST			30.0 G								30.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE OAKLAND R	15.0 G										15.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE PLEASANT			25.0 G								25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE RUSTIC LA	35.0 G										35.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WASHINGTO			20.0 G								20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILLOW ST				48.0 G							48.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILSON ST					25.0 A						25.0
PW-R-02	RECON ASH ST				84.0 G							84.0
PW-R-02	RECON BEAR HILL RD						145.0 G					145.0
-02	RECON BERKELEY ST			155.0 G								155.0
-02	RECON CHAPIN AVE					96.0 G						96.0
PW-R-02	RECON EATON ST	204.0 G										204.0
PW-R-02	RECON GOULD ST					67.0 G						67.0
PW-R-02	RECON GREEN (ASH-MN					20.0 G						20.0
PW-R-02	RECON HOWARD ST						100.0 G	260.0 G				360.0
PW-R-02	RECON KING ST						96.0 G					96.0
PW-R-02	RECON PENNSYLVANIA							160.0 G				160.0
PW-R-02	RECON SHORT/MILL ST		190.0 G									190.0
PW-R-02	RECON SUMMER MN-WES	175.0 G	225.0 G	100.0 G	280.0 G	225.0 G						1005.0
PW-R-02	RECON UNDESIGNATED								450.0 G	450.0 G	450.0 G	1350.0
PW-R-03	GEN DRAINAGE IMPROV	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	150.0
PW-R-03	IMPROVE DRAINAGE AB											
PW-R-03	SAUGUS RIVER BASIN	733.0 D										733.0
PW-R-04	STREET ACCEPTANCES	1.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	168.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	1.0 B	177.0
PW-R-05	SIDEWALK+CURB CONST	50.0 A	60.0 A	70.0 A	80.0 A	80.0 A	80.0 A	80.0 A	90.0 A	100.0 A	110.0 A	800.0
PW-R-09	AERIAL TOPOGRAPHIC	50.0 A										50.0
PW-R-12	WEST ST CORRIDOR IM	1410.0 G										1410.0
PW-R-13	TRAFFIC SIG. OPT. S	29.4 A										29.4
PW-R-15	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMEN		1500.0 G	800.0 G	300.0 G	300.0 G	300.0 G					3200.0
PW-R-17	RECONSTRUCT WALKERS		1250.0 G									1250.0
SUBTOTAL	ROAD/STREET	2737.4	3276.0	1365.0	848.0	829.0	837.0	683.0	556.0	566.0	576.0	12273.4
SD-B-01	RMHS IMMEDIATE REPA	1850.0 D										1850.0
SD-B-08	BOILER/BURNER REPLA	700.0 D										700.0
SD-B-09	OIL TANK REMOVAL		40.0 A		40.0 A			40.0 A	60.0 A			180.0
-12	RENOVATE COOLIDGE M	9000.0 D										9000.0

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	TOTAL
SD-B-14	NEW OR RENOV RMHS	40.0 A								30000. D		30040.0
SD-B-15	ELEM. SCHOOL ENROLL	50.0 A	300.0 D	7390.0 D								7740.0
SD-B-15	RENOV KILLAM, BARRO					3000.0 D						3000.0
SD-B-16	UPDATE BIRCH MEADOW	600.0 D										600.0
SUBTOTAL	SCHOOLS BUILD	12240.	340.0	7390.0	40.0	3000.0		40.0	60.0	30000.		53110.0
SD-E-01	CLASSROOM TECHNOLOG	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	1000.0
SD-E-03	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT		20.0 A		20.0 A			20.0 A	20.0 A			80.0
SUBTOTAL	SCHOOLS EQUIP	100.0	120.0	100.0	120.0	100.0	100.0	120.0	120.0	100.0	100.0	1080.0
SW-S-01	INFLOW AND INFILTRA	115.0 E	155.4 E									270.4
SW-S-02	SEWER MAIN HIGH ST			47.6 E								47.6
SW-S-02	SEWER MAIN REPL-PLE			31.0 E								31.0
SW-S-02	SEWER MAIN SWEETSER		16.1 E									16.1
SW-S-03	SEWER MAIN - MILL&S	82.5 B										82.5
SW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	192.8 E										192.8
SW-S-04	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT			65.0 E	65.0 E				65.0 E			195.0
SW-S-06	SEWER LIFT STATIONS			30.0 E			30.0 E			30.0 E		90.0
SUBTOTAL	SEWER	390.3	171.5	173.6	65.0		30.0		65.0	30.0		925.4
SW-W-02	CARBON FOR FILTERS			193.2 E								193.2
SW-W-02	FLUORIDE ANALYZER R	6.0 E										6.0
SW-W-02	HIGH SERVICE PUMP					15.1 E						15.1
SW-W-02	LAB AUTOCLAVE REPLA							8.6 E				8.6
SW-W-02	LAB INCUBATOR REPLA			7.0 E								7.0
SW-W-02	LAB SPECTROPHOTOMET					7.0 E						7.0
SW-W-02	WATER TRTMT. PLANT	24.5 E	75.0 E		9240.0 ED							9339.5
SW-W-03	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	29.0 E	65.0 E	26.0 E	64.0 E	26.0 E	26.0 E		33.3 E	85.0 E	26.6 E	380.9
SW-W-05	REVAY WELL PUMP & E	12.0 E										12.0
SW-W-05	WELL EXPLOR. AND DE	129.0 E										129.0
SW-W-05	WELL POWER SUPPLY R			18.0 E								18.0
SW-W-07	STORAGE TANK REPAIR	300.0 E	435.0 E	8.3 E	8.5 E	8.7 E	9.1 E			9.5 E	9.7 E	788.8
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - CAUSEW										32.0 E	32.0
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - KING,P	5.0 E										5.0
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - MAIN/A				245.0 E							245.0
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - WAKEFI	40.0 E									40.0 E	80.0
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - WALKER			164.9 E								164.9
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN - WAVERL				8.4 E							8.4
SW-W-08	WATER MAIN LINING			200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	1600.0
SW-W-08	WATER SUPPLY PROTEC	153.0 E	95.0 E	124.6 E	249.1 E	81.2 E	119.9 E					822.8
SUBTOTAL	WATER	698.5	670.0	742.0	10015.	338.0	355.0	208.6	233.3	294.5	308.3	13863.2
SD- -02	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	7000.0 ED										7000.0

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	TOTA
SUBTOTAL LIGHT DEPT		7000.0										7000.
YEARLY TOTALS:		28784.4	13270.3	10432.7	12141.6	4789.0	1988.7	1497.9	1698.8	31488.7	1375.6	107467.7
SOURCE OF FUNDING:												
A	ANNUAL APPROPRIATION	1245.6	967.8	831.1	748.6	492.0	801.7	701.3	889.5	713.2	556.3	7947.1
B	BETTERMENT	83.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	168.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	259.5
CO	CAPITAL/DEBT EXCL. OVRD.		1500.0									1500.0
C	SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS											
D	DEBT TO BE AUTHORIZED	17283.0	2400.0	7390.0	500.0	3250.0				30000.0		60823.0
E	ENTERPRISE APPROP.	1013.3	891.5	931.6	840.0	338.0	385.0	208.6	298.3	324.5	308.3	5539.1
ED	ENTERPRISE DEBT	7000.0			9240.0							16240.0
G	GRANT OUTSIDE FUNDING	2159.0	7510.0	1279.0	812.0	812.0	801.0	420.0	510.0	450.0	510.0	15159.0
S	SALE OF REAL ESTATE											
		28784.4	13270.3	10432.7	12141.6	4789.0	1988.7	1497.9	1698.8	31488.7	1375.6	107467.

property borders the new Police station site on the south and his home is three feet from that border. Traffic, noise, and lighting are concerns for him, and we feel the architect and Town Manager have expressed the same concerns and made suggestions which address these issues.

As one of three neighborhood representatives on the committee, I am sure there will be things that come up from time to time during construction. But I feel we can work with the Towns Project Manager, Richard Marks, from Daedalus Projects Incorporated, to resolve these issues. I personally find the Police Station Building Committee, Peter Hechenbleikner, Richard Marks, and Bret Donham all very capable and willing to address any concerns of the neighborhood or the Police, and will provide us with a new facility that will take us well into the next millennium.

On motion by Willard J. Burditt, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
136 voted in the affirmative
7 voted in the negative

On original motion:

2/3 vote required
141 voted in the affirmative
2 voted in the negative

On motion by Nathan C. White, Precinct 6, it was voted that this Special Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Thursday, March 12, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

158 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

ADJOURNED SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **March 12, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:50 p.m., there being a quorum present.

Moment of Silence for long-time Town Meeting Member and member of the Conservation Committee, Maurice Proctor.

The Invocation was given by the Reverend Alan B. Bond, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ARTICLE 1 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was moved to remove Article 1 from the table.

ARTICLE 1 - Report of Progress on Landfill was accepted and given by W. Bruce MacDonald:

Reading Business Park

The Town with the approval of Town Meeting has requested proposals for the reuse of the former Reading landfill site also known as the Reading Business Park. Requests for proposals were developed and advertised by the Town in late December, and were sent to 45 parties who had expressed interest in the site.

In late February proposals were received. The Town was disappointed in receiving only two proposals. In addition to a concern about the number of proposals received, the Town is concerned about the quality of the proposals. Neither of them is for the 600,000 square feet of office, research, or hotel space that the Town had wanted to see. However, the Board of Selectmen jointly with the Reading Business Park Task Force heard presentations by two proponents on Tuesday night. The proponents have been given until next Tuesday to submit any additional information on their proposals. The Board will then evaluate those proposals and take one of two courses of action - 1) Determine that one of the proposals received has the potential for providing the Town with what it wants from that site and negotiate with that bidder; or 2) go back out to the marketplace to solicit proposals again. It's important to note at this point that the offer of $4 million was received from each party, and that $4 million is the cost of closing the landfill.

The goals that the Town has for this site is to: 1) close the former landfill with as little expense to the Town as possible; 2) maximize other revenue from the sale of the property; 3) maximize tax revenue from the property; 4) maximize job creation from the site. The Board of Selectmen will continue to work diligently to accomplish as many of those goals as possible.

ARTICLE 1 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald it was moved that Article 1 be laid on the table.

ARTICLE 6 - On motion by Russell T. Graham, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of Nine Million Dollars ($9,000,000) for the purpose of constructing additions, remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School on Birch Meadow Drive, including the costs of original furnishings and equipment, engineering and architectural fees, inspection fees, relocation costs, contingencies and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; and to authorize the School Committee to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said school renovations and additions and related matters, and to vote to authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article.

On motion by George C. Hines, Precinct 5, to substitute for the figure "$9,000,000", the new figure "$9,500,000 and; after the phrase "to the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School on Birch Meadow Drive" add ", in such a way as to not impact the area of the existing open space behind the current building used for recreation fields by more than 5%".

See attached handout

On motion by Jacqueline S. Chipman, Precinct 6, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
104 voted in the affirmative
28 voted in the negative

Motion by George C. Hines, Precinct 5, to amend Article 6 does not carry.

2/3 vote required
123 voted in the affirmative
9 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 7 - On motion by Timothy R. Twomey, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars ($700,000) for the replacement of boilers and/or burners and for the abatement and/or removal of asbestos at any or all of the following locations: Birch Meadow School, 27 Arthur B. Lord Drive; and the Reading Memorial High School, 62 Oakland Road, Reading Massachusetts, including all engineering fees and preparation costs required to complete the purpose of this Article; said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; and to authorize the School Committee to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said project and related matters, and to vote to

authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article.

2/3 vote required
115 voted in the affirmative
1 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 8 - On motion by Daniel A. Ensminger, Precinct 7, it was voted that the Town of Reading instruct its state representatives and state senator to file a Home Rule Petition with the General Court and pass said petition in substantially the same form as follows:

"AN ACT RELATIVE TO A CERTAIN RETIRED EMPLOYEE OF THE TOWN OF READING.

Section 1.

Notwithstanding any special or general law, rule or regulation to the contrary, the Town of Reading is hereby authorized to grant Louis Bacigalupo a superannuation retirement allowance in accordance with Chapter 32 of the General Laws equal to 2.1% of either (i) the average annual rate of regular compensation received by Mr. Bacigalupo during any period of three consecutive years of creditable service for which such rate of compensation was the highest, or (ii) the average annual rate of regular compensation received by Mr. Bacigalupo during the period or periods, whether consecutive or not, constituting his last three years of creditable service preceding retirement, whichever is greater, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service; provided however such superannuation retirement allowance shall be in lieu of and not in addition to any retirement allowance Mr. Bacigalupo may have been receiving prior to the effective date of this act; provided further that such superannuation retirement allowance shall be deemed non-contributory for the purposes of this act.

Section 2.

This act shall take effect as of January 1, 1998."

counted vote requested
112 voted in the affirmative
- 0 - voted in the negative

Report to Town Meeting by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2:

The Reading Historical Commission wishes to inform Town Meeting that it voted on March 7, 1998 to present Articles 9 and 10 and recommend tabling Articles 11-14. Articles 11-14 were developed by a private individual, who has stepped out of the picture based upon the sentiment of the neighborhood on Sweetser Avenue and the Antiquarian Society. We have been informed that the Antiquarian Society wishes to acquire the

Sweetser Avenue lot for enhancement of the historic Parker Tavern and we will support this at a later time.

The Reading Historical Commission's mandate to identify, protect and preserve Reading's history is embodied in the efforts to save the historic Foster-Emerson House. Articles 9 and 10 are placed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to ensure that the house survives in Reading. The Commission has researched available sites, located this portion of land on Grove Street and will meet the requirements of the Aquifer Protection District and concerns of the Conservation Commission. The proposal is now before Town Meeting for final approval.

Town Meeting's passage of Articles 9 and 10 is required if the circa-1710 Foster-Emerson House is to be preserved in Reading. The house, one of the nation's earliest houses, is the subject of a demolition permit currently filed with the Town and it is protected by the Town's demolition review by law that provides for a stay of demolition until April 27, 1998. The Foster-Emerson house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and in the MA Historical Commission's First Period Thematic Survey. This endangered property is one of Reading's most significant historic assets, and is also an important part of the nation's history.

The plan to save the house requires the acquisition of the Grove Street lot so that the house can be removed from its Meadow Brook Golf Club site and relocated to the new lot. The rehabilitation of the house as a single family residence will be placed under specifications and restrictions established by the Historical Commission and sold to a qualified buyer with the financial means and restoration management capability to handle the project. One option currently in place to facilitate the plan, is a non-profit, Reading Friends of Historic Preservation, Inc. group which can manage the house move and restoration.

The Grove Street lot is the basis for making the plan work. After town meeting votes to transfer the lot to the Board of Selectmen, they will sell the lot to a qualified bidder, with restrictions that the Foster-Emerson House be the only house to be located on this site. It is also understood that the Board of Selectmen, at their discretion, will convey the lot for $1.00 and a negotiated sum that will be paid to the Town when the project is completed and sold at fair market value. The Friends are ready to serve as qualified bidders for the moving and rehabilitation of the house. Their funds are available for moving costs, and the Reading Cooperative Bank has committed to loan funds for restoration. These steps are critical to ensure the financial viability of the house relocation and preservation.

Since the object of this enormous effort is based on the preservation/saving the house, no financial gain is expected – BUT – financial assistant and community support will be essential for a successful outcome. THE TOWN GOVERNMENT IS NOT BEING ASKED TO PUT UP ANY MONIES. In fact, the project, when completed, will bring in new revenue as the house and lot enters the tax roles. During any stage of the program, a buyer could come forward who would be qualified financially and able to

conform to the restoration standards set forth by the historical commission and Board of Selectmen.

The concept is a complex and unique approach to preserving the Foster-Emerson House but it is a necessary one in order to save this relic of Reading history. There is only one way this will happen – with the support of Town Meeting and the community at large.

ARTICLE 9 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to transfer the care, custody, management and control of all or any part of the following described property, currently being held by the Board of Selectmen for protecting the water supply of the Town to the Board of Selectmen for any other municipal purpose, including the possible sale or lease thereof:

Approximately 22,500 square feet of land located on Grove Street being a portion of the land shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Revised Jan. 1, 1977 Map 187 as Lot 3, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6656, Page 167.

- - - - -

On March 4, 1998, the Conservation Commission voted to support Articles 9 and 10 with the following conditions that a conservation restriction be placed on the rear portion of the proposed lot and a silt fence be placed to protect rare and endangered species which live in the area; and that the front portion be limited to a structure constructed circa 1730 or earlier.

Voted 4-0-0

Motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend Article 9 by deleting the words "sale or" after the word "possible".

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
79 voted in the affirmative
20 voted in the negative

Motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend does not carry.

On original motion

2/3 vote required
85 voted in the affirmative
15 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 10 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey all or any part of the following described property for

the relocation or use by a pre-1740 structure and that the Town determine the minimum amount to be paid for such conveyance is one (1) dollar; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey all or any part of said property for such amount of money, or a larger amount, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall consider proper including conditions that protect any rare and endangered species on or which use the property, and to deliver a deed therefor:

Approximately 22,500 square feet of land located on Grove Street being a portion of the land shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Revised Jan. 1, 1977 Map 187 as Lot 3, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 6656, Page 167.

2/3 vote required
94 voted in the affirmative
7 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 11 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 11.

ARTICLE 12 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 12.

ARTICLE 13 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 13.

ARTICLE 14 - On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 14.

On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was voted that the Special Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die at 10:33 p.m.

136 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

TOWN OF READING
READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Reading School Committee
Timothy R. Twomey, Chair

School Building Committee
Russell T. Graham, Chair

Finance Committee
James A. Keigley, Chair

March 6, 1998

Dear Town Meeting Member,

We are writing to reassure you of our complete support for moving forward with the renovations and additions to the Coolidge Middle School.

- On Thursday, February 12, 1998, the Reading School Building Committee voted to support and place the Coolidge Middle School as a warrant article at the Special Town Meeting on March 9, 1998.

- On Wednesday, March 4, 1998, the Reading School Committee voted to support the $9 million renovations and additions for the Coolidge Middle School.

- On Friday, March 6, 1998, the Reading Town Finance Committee voted to support Article 6 and to recommend to Town Meeting that they support the $9 million renovation and addition to the Coolidge Middle School at the Special Town Meeting on March 9, 1998.

The School Committee is committed to the 6-8 middle school concept. The completion of the Parker Project in the fall of 1997 reflects that continuing commitment to have two middle schools 6-8 in Reading, each for approximately 600 students. Renovations and additions to Coolidge Middle School will provide an equitable resolution reaffirming that commitment.

After meeting over the past few months, an Enrollment and School Size Study Committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools recommended three options to solve the elementary enrollment issue. On four nights in February and March the Reading School Committee held meetings at the four elementary schools to receive input from parents and members of the community on how to solve the long term elementary enrollment problem. The School Committee wants to evaluate all options for addressing this elementary enrollment by using the $50,000 that will be requested at the March 9, 1998 Town Meeting for a feasibility study. Addressing the elementary problem before seeking that input and before an extensive feasibility study is done would not serve the long term interest of the elementary schools.

We have attached a letter from James L. Anderson, Acting Administrator School Governance, Environment and Structural Support Services indicating that the Coolidge Middle School construction project qualifies as "approvable" under the current school building assistance act and regulations. He also indicates that Reading would be reimbursed at the current reimbursement rate of 66%.

Each of us, the Chairman of the Reading School Committee, Chairman of the School Building Committee, and Chairman of the Finance Committee, urges you as a Town Meeting Member to support this desperately needed middle school project as well as the $50,000 elementary feasibility request. Beth Klepeis, Finance Director, indicates that this renovation and addition can be included in a balanced FY98 Capital Plan.

The enrollment in the Reading schools continues to grow because of an outstanding community which is supported by a strong school system.

If any one of us can provide any further information, please feel free to call us at our homes.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Twomey, Chair
Reading School Committee
(781) 942-0146

Russell T. Graham, Chair
School Building Committee
(781) 944-7846

James Keigley, Chair
Finance Committee
(781) 944-5565

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 388-3300
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1998
OFFICE OF THE SUPT OF SCHOOLS
READING, MA 01867

February 23, 1998

Harry Harutunian, Superintendent
Reading Public School District
82 Oakland Road
Reading, MA 01867

Dear Superintendent Harutunian:

On February 23, 1998, the required School Building Assistance Needs Conference was held with representatives of the Reading School Building Committee, and the Massachusetts Department of Education School Governance Services Office staff. The Committee presented a proposal(s) for a Middle School construction project(s). The Department has evaluated the relevant information provided by the Reading School Building Committee and is pleased to confirm that the proposal(s) qualifies as "approvable" under the current School Building Assistance Act (St.1948, c.645) and Regulations. Review of your proposal(s) indicates that it will be classified as a Category Two for overcrowding.

The current reimbursement rate for your school district is 66%. This rate will be in effect through June 30, 1998. If your project is presented to the Board of Education before that date, the grant will be 66% of construction and interest cost.

Additionally, any changes in the scope of this proposed project should be brought to the attention of program staff. Major changes in scope may require a new Building Needs Conference.

Please be advised that all required documentation for an approved capital grant application must be received in the Department of Education on or before June 1, 1998 in order to be placed on the FY' 99 Priority List.

Sincerely,

James L. Anderson, Acting Administrator
School Governance, Environment and Structural Support Services
(617) 388-3300 ext. 659

Project Highlights

The proposed addition and renovation project will accomplish the following:

- **Increase Enrollment Capacity** by 231 students by adding 4 new science labs, 7 additional core subject classrooms and 1 additional foreign language classroom. Teachers would no longer have to share classrooms.
- **Allow Middle School/Team Teaching.** Reconfigures the existing building classrooms into a Cluster Arrangement to allow for the implementation of a true middle school educational program, similar to that run at the Parker Middle School.
- Improve Classrooms. Provides acoustic ceilings, new teaching surfaces, and additional storage in existing classrooms.
- Provide Technology. Provides technology infrastructure throughout the school, including all classrooms, for 21st century learning.
- Improve Core Facilities. Provides appropriately sized core facilities to replace undersized existing facilities. A new Gymnasium and Library would be provided, and an extension of the existing Cafetorium would be constructed for school assemblies and performances.
- Provide a much needed **Multi-Purpose Room.** Provides a flexible Multi-Purpose Room to allow for use by many departments (music, drama, industrial technology, physical education, etc.) and for interdisciplinary team teaching projects outside of the classroom clusters. Interdisciplinary studies are an integral component of a middle school philosophy.
- Provide Appropriate Space for Special Needs Programs. Provides appropriate Special Needs, Guidance, and Tutorial spaces. These programs are currently housed inappropriately in closets and makeshift rooms, taking away needed space from other programs.
- Improve Enrichment Programs. Provides appropriate facilities for enrichment programs: Art, Music, and Drama would be housed in new rooms, appropriately sized and equipped. A significant fine arts storage area would also be constructed. All of these facilities would be located in close proximity to each other and to the Cafetorium in order to facilitate better integration between the arts and the performance area.
- Upgrade Locker Rooms. Provides additional locker space and improved air quality. Handicap access would be provided to the locker rooms by a three stop elevator.
- Improve Staff Areas. Provides proper staff work areas and proper storage areas for teaching equipment.
- Mechanical and Building System Upgrades. Upgrades building systems including the envelope, interior finishes, and all existing mechanical and electrical systems.
- Provide Handicapped Accessibility. Brings the school into full compliance with all State and Federal regulations for handicap accessibility.
- Improve Supervision and Safety. Relocation of the administrative offices allows supervision of the building entrance. The administrative suite would be relocated to a spot directly abutting the main entrance lobby in order to provide direct control over persons entering the building.

Project Costs

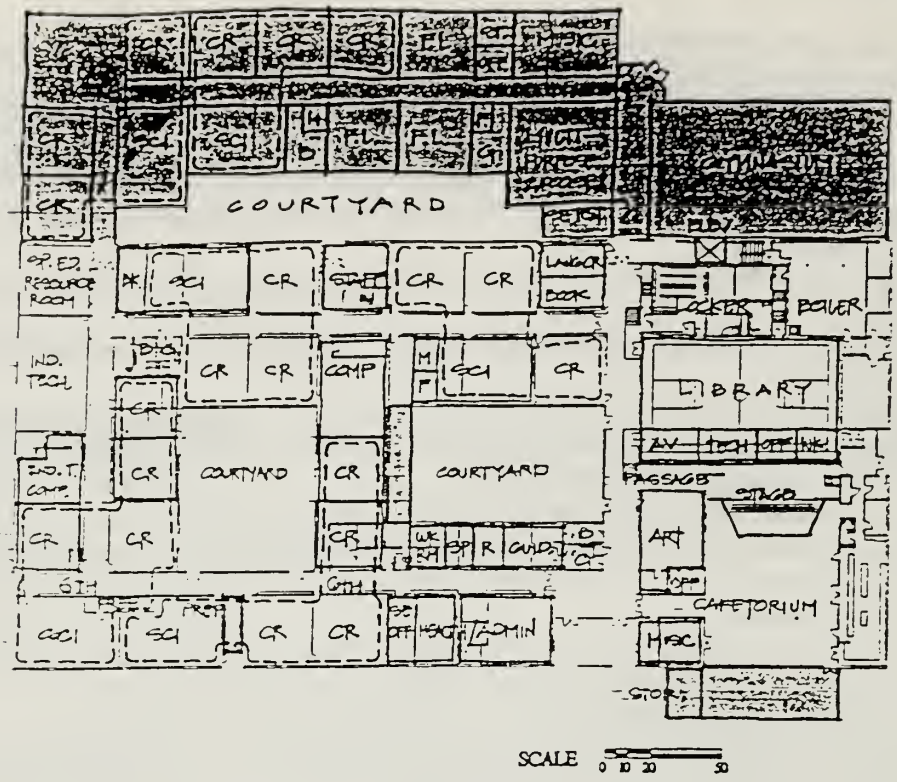
Construction Costs	$6,504,300
Furnishings and Equipment	$ 315,000
Technology	$ 700,000
Indirect Costs	$ 1,480700
Total Project Costs	$9,000,000
State Reimbursement: (66 %)	$5,940,000
Cost to Reading:	$3,060,000

Reading School Building Committee

Russell Graham, Chair
Margaret Cowell
Robert Grasso
Joseph Lupi
Paula O'Leary
Barbara Poock
Richard Radville
Roger Sanstad
Timothy Twomey

Project Facts & Figures

Existing Building Area:	59,400 sf
Proposed Building Area:	86,130 sf
New Construction Cost:	$110.00 / sf
Renovation Cost:	$ 60.00 / sf



Proposed Floor Plan

Why the Coolidge Project is Needed

Since 1992, enrollment projections at all levels of the town school system have continued to rise beyond those projected at that time. At this time, Coolidge is over design capacity by approximately 80 students, and by 2006/2007, the middle school level is projected to be 204 students, or 16% over the design capacity of the two middle schools. The bulk of this overcrowding will be in the Coolidge District. In addition, educational program changes, some state mandated, and some due to local changes, have caused the need for additional space. Resulting 'temporary' reconfigurations have resulted in various educational and administrative programs being run in substandard space, including former closets. Also, the principal is unable to run a true middle school 'cluster classroom' program, such as the Parker Middle School, due to the general lack of space.

Finally, there exists a significant disparity between the new Parker Middle School and Coolidge, both in terms of space available, and the general educational environment. For example, while Parker is wired fully for voice, video, and data, with full access to the Internet, Coolidge has none of this , working with a makeshift computer network installed by volunteer parents. Coolidge, at 37 years old, is also seeing various building systems nearing the end of their useful lives.

While the goal of the proposed project is not to provide for full equity between the schools, it is important that there be at the least, similar opportunities at each location.

Financial Assistance from the State

This proposal is eligible for 66% reimbursement of the total cost of the principal and interest on the entire project. This reimbursement is paid by the State to the Town over a twenty year period. If this project is approved by town meeting and submitted to the State by June 1, 1998, the Town of Reading will receive it's first reimbursement check two to three years sooner than if the project is submitted a year from now on June 1, 1999.

Impact on the Tax Rate

This project will not impact the tax rate. Funding for the project is available within the Town's levy limit as part of the existing long-range capital budget. An override of proposition 2 1/2 is not required.

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- **Mechanical and Building System Upgrades.** Upgrades building systems including the envelope, interior finishes, and all existing mechanical and electrical systems.
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Project Facts & Figures

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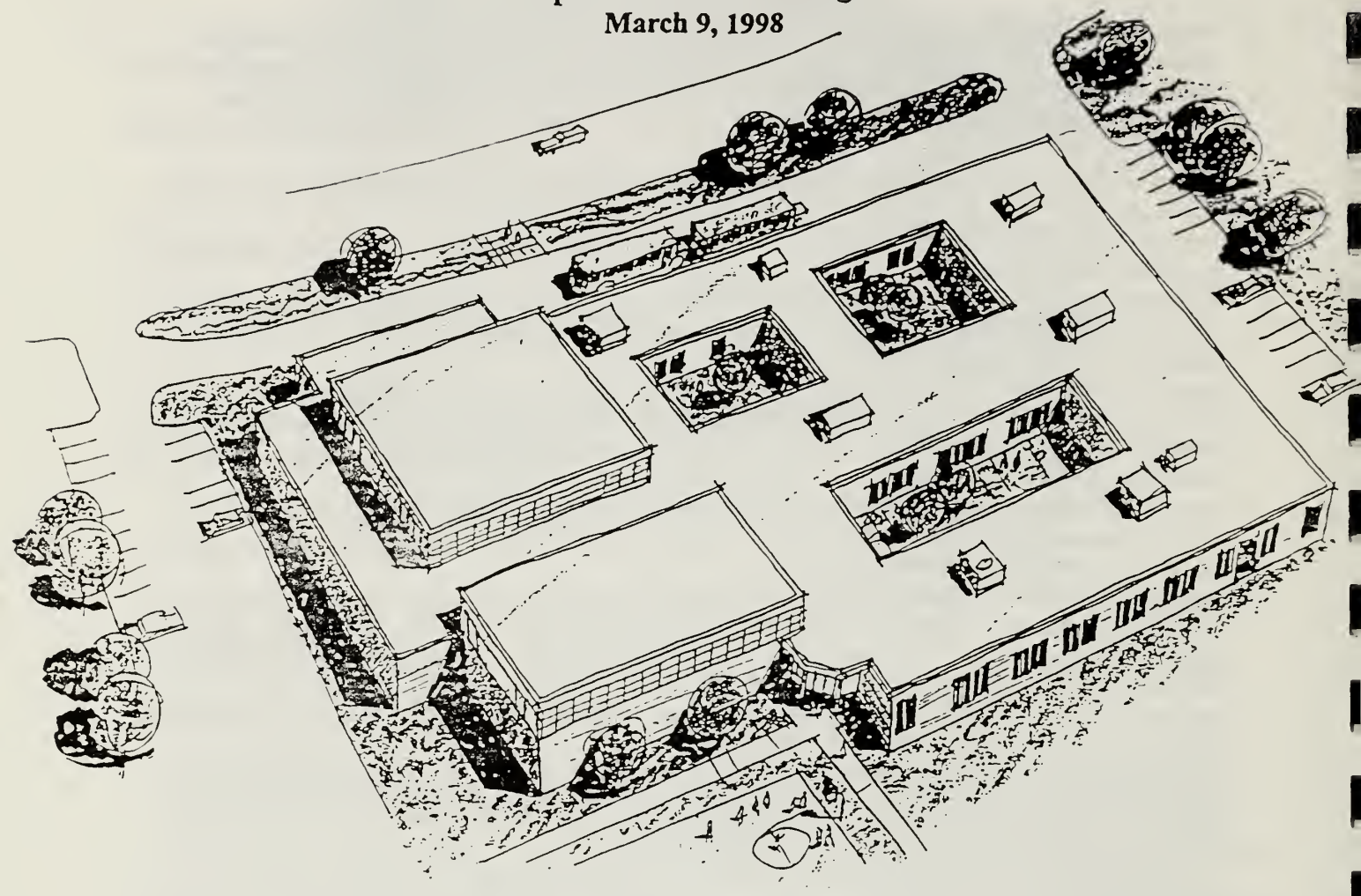
Proposed Building Area:	86,130 sf
New Construction Cost:	$110.00 / sf
Renovation Cost:	$ 60.00 / sf

Voter Information

Special Town Meeting

March 9, 1998



Proposed Addition as Viewed from the Playfields

A. W. Coolidge Middle School

At the April 1997 Annual town Meeting, a motion was approved to retain an architect to study space needs at the A. W. Coolidge Middle School. The architectural firm of Strekalovsky & Hoit, Inc. was retained to examine the existing facility, study enrollment projections, and prepare alternate schematic plans for review by the School Building Committee. Over the course of the past nine months, the architects and the committee have studied the issue and concluded that the best and most cost-effective solution to the needs at Coolidge is an addition and complete renovations.

The total cost of the proposed project is $9,000,000, which will provide proper space for the expected enrollment at Coolidge, provide for upgrades to aging systems and other building components, and provide for modern and current technology and systems consistent with the goals of the Reading School Committee.

As proposed, the project will be in conformance with Massachusetts requirements for reimbursement under the School Building Assistance Board program, at 66% reimbursement, for a net cost to the town of $3,000,000.

Part of a Comprehensive System-Wide Plan

This addition/renovation project has been endorsed by the School Committee, the School Building Committee, and the Finance Committee as part of a long-range solution to Reading's school enrollment growth. Each phase of the plan is designed to meet the need for additional space in a timely manner so that the need for wasteful and temporary portable classrooms is avoided.

Coolidge Issues

- The Coolidge School is already over capacity and enrollments are projected to grow by 125 pupils over the next ten years. Without additional classroom space, the school will be 204 pupils over capacity by 2007.
- Coolidge lacks classrooms - there are currently seven teachers who do not have classrooms, including science, math, social studies, and language arts teachers in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- It is impossible to run a true 'middle school' educational program (similar to the Parker Middle School) in the existing facility. Classroom clusters and an appropriate multi-purpose room should be created to reinforce and improve the interdisciplinary team teaching concept which is at the core of a true middle school philosophy.
- Little or no Technology Infrastructure exists. There are no classroom video monitors, no links to the outside world, no centralized TV studio, and no CD Rom towers or video network.
- There is only Minimal Computer Access for students. There is only one computer per classroom and no ability to go on the internet.
- Science Facilities are Inadequate. One of the labs is undersized and another teacher holds science classes in the former woodworking shop.
- Special Needs, Guidance, Testing, Speech, and Reading tutorials are housed in inappropriate rooms, including former storage closets.
- The Library is Severely Undersized. The library is approximately 1/2 the size of the new Parker facility.
- Drama and Music space is Inadequate. 2/3 of the school is involved in band and there are often up to three groups vying for space in the cafetorium or music room. There are no facilities for drama and practices often are relegated to the art room.
- Assembly space is Inadequate. Monthly assemblies are very cramped and the audience for performances typically stretches into the foyer.
- The Gymnasium is undersized and inappropriately outfitted. The full basketball court is below regulation size, the 1/2 court baskets are too close to the walls and the flooring is not resilient.
- Teacher, Administrative, and Health areas are substandard. Most importantly, the administrative staff lacks proper control over the front door due to it's remote location.
- The building is not fully accessible to the handicapped and does not meet ADA requirements.
- The 35 year old electrical service and distribution system within the school is too limited to expand needed educational technology throughout the school. Electrical upgrades are required.
- Many components of the physical plant (roof, windows, heating and ventilating, plumbing, and electrical) are at, or near, the end of their expected life and will require replacement within the near future. If replaced as part of this 'enrollment' driven project, the State will pay for 66% of this necessary work.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **April 13, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:50 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Matthew Cummings, Precinct 8.

This month the Town lost one of its longtime volunteers, Robert Fields. Bob, who passed away, was a member of the Board of Library trustees for 32 years, having first been elected in 1966 and served every since. He was also probably the library's most frequent visitor. I would like a moment of silence, please. The moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 2 - Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, gave The following State of the Town Report:

The years pass so quickly, too quickly, and once again it is time for us to reflect upon the health of the community. It is always enlightening to pause and assess the situations that have arisen during the past year and evaluate the decisions made to address these needs.

As a preface to my remarks on the State of the Town, let me first extend our thanks on behalf of the entire community to the Reading Police Department for the professional manner in which the department dealt with the disappearance of Elaine Donahue. Their perseverance in solving the case was tempered with a respect for a family in crisis. This event brought the citizens of Reading together initially in a common bond of concern and hope, and finally left us dismayed and saddened.

Now, let us reflect upon some of the events occurring during the year that have brought many rewards to the community.

- The state of our public buildings keeps improving. Due to the strength of our Capital Improvements Program, a new, redefined Police Station will become a reality as final design is accomplished and construction begins in the fall. The completion of the Parker Middle School and full occupancy this past fall is a landmark in the community. The recent approval by Town Meeting to fund renovation of the Coolidge Middle School continues the School Department's program of upgrading our schools.
- Due to the efforts of the Historical Commission through the enactment of the Demolition Delay Bylaw, we have been successful in preserving the Damon House

on John Street and the Foster-Emerson Home located at the Meadow Brook Country Club.

- Downtown revitalization, under the auspices of the Downtown Steering Committee, is moving forward with the final design of the Streetscape Program approved by the Board of Selectmen, and the continued work of the economic development consultants.
- Reading's open space inventory increased due to the acquisition of 9.2 acres of Sledge Woods, made possible through Town funds and the awarding of State self-help funds. Additionally, a Reading family has donated 1.2 acres on Van Norden Road.
- The level of services offered by the Elder Affairs Department will be strengthened because of the bequest by Dorothy Burbank of $200,000.
- The Reading Housing Authority was the recipient of the 1997 Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Massachusetts Chapter for the program for low and moderate income families affiliated with the Summit Village project. The Housing Authority continues to provide guidance to families enabling them to attain greater economic independence.
- Under the leadership of Eugene Nigro, the Reading Public Library Foundation was established. The endowment fund will enhance the Town's ability to ensure that the Library continues to meet the needs of its citizens in the new millennium.
- The dedication of Wood End Cemetery marked the completion of another milestone in the Town's commitment to meet the needs of the community into the future.
- Collaborative efforts between the Water Department and the Ipswich River Stream Team to protect our water supply are ongoing.
- Nelson Burbank and the Recreation Department continue their joint efforts to provide a swimming pool, which will bring new vitality to the community.

Looking forward, it is apparent that many issues discussed in 1997 still need resolution.

The closing of the landfill and its subsequent development continues to be the Board of Selectmen's first priority. The Board of Selectmen has recently rejected the two bids for the sale of this property. The Board determined that the bids were non-responsive to the RFP, and the process had gotten very awkward, with the two bidders apparently bidding against each other beyond their original proposals. The Board of Selectmen intends to have this property back out to bid very shortly. The 35-acre former landfill site is our best opportunity to make a significant impact on the commercial tax base in the community, and because of this it deserves our best attempt to maximize the benefits from the site.

The ability of the Town to fund services and capital needs at present funding levels are of concern. The Budget Council will need to reassess the Town's ability to

meet long-term budget estimates when establishing the budget priorities for the year 2000 and beyond.

This past Fall, a task force was formed to evaluate several potential Town uses of Longwood Farm should the land be taken out of 61A agricultural status and placed on the market. The Town has the right of first refusal that must be exercised within 120 days of a bona fide offer being accepted by the owners. The potential Town uses for open space and recreational facilities are evident. The ability to acquire all or a portion of the property will be determined by availability of funds or the establishment of a private/public partnership.

The Board of Selectmen has been extremely busy during this past year in its attempt to address the many issues that have come before it. These include such diverse issues as Compost Center hours, beer and wine liquor licenses, and road improvements. The Board's decisions continually impact the Town Departments and the available resources needed to provide services. However, due to the untiring efforts of our Town employees, progress continues to be made and the residents of Reading do live in a community which attempts to address the concerns of its citizens.

Upon reflection, it should be noted that the accomplishments we have achieved were due to the diligence and commitment of the many stakeholders in our midst including our many volunteers, interested residents and staff.

Let us celebrate the commitment, concern and collaboration by many to move the Town forward.

ARTICLE 2 - The following Berger Awards were presented by Dennis Richards, Assistant Superintendent of Schools:

After downloading from the Internet a trial version of Sunburst's Web Workshop, we purchased a five-CD ROM package of this very kid-friendly web-page maker. Working with our technology assistant, Mrs. Linda O'Leary, students are learning how to create a subject-based web page. A group of third-grade students are making an informative web site on El Nino. Mrs. Lynch's fifth-grade class has begun work on a web site on Habitats of the World. Students will be incorporating their artwork created on KidPix into this web site along with information that they have gathered from their research. Once we have completed these pilot projects, we intend to continue taking advantage of student publishing opportunities on the Internet with other Birch Meadow students.

CU-See-Me software and a color video camera were also purchased. Last year, Mrs. Lynch's class enjoyed a year-long e-mail exchange with an American school in Hong Kong. This school year, she wanted to go a step further in cyberspace by engaging in live "video conferences" with this school. Due to difficulties on the Hong Kong end, we have had to set aside this plan and look for other possibilities with video conferences.

We have experimented with the software and camera and are now registered on the Global School Net (http://www.gsn.org), a web site that helps connect schools around the world with each other so that they may engage in live video conferences. The organization holds "practice days" and helps school make use of CU-See-Me video conferences. We anticipate international show and tell activities in the near future! And, with our new Media One Internet access connection, which was installed on April 9, we will be able to enjoy faster video transfers when we go live with the other schools.

The Berger Award money has enabled us to move ahead with technology. Our library media center now has a well-equipped multimedia production station, thanks in large part to this award.

1997-1998 Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award for Exemplary Teaching
Technology 2000: Innovation at Birch Meadow

I came before Town Meeting last Spring to explain a change in the way the Berger Award would celebrate exemplary teaching.

This year instead of identifying exemplary teachers, the Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award for exemplary teaching is supporting innovative teaching in Reading's schools.

The 1997 Berger Award goes to teachers at the Birch Meadow Elementary School for their Technology 2000 proposal.

In the Fall Birch Meadow teachers developed a proposal for exemplary teaching that is on the cutting edge of technology usage for schools. They implemented the proposal this year and are here tonight to report to Town Meeting on the results of their work.

I'd like to invite Principal Richard Davidson and Media Specialist & Librarian Nancy Anthony of Birch Meadow School to come up here and speak to Town Meeting about their school's project.

> Our School, like others in the district, has been fortunate to have support in the area of technology. Teachers and students are continually learning to use various applications, and they are finding ways to incorporate technology into meaningful learning experiences. While we recognize the need to strive toward mastering the resources we now possess, we are also mindful of the need to be continually looking ahead to new ways to incorporate technology in learning. To this end, we would like to utilize the $500 Berger Funds to purchase equipment and software that will enable us to pilot several new endeavors with technology.
>
> We are interested in CU-See-Me, a software application that allows "video conferencing." While this technology is still somewhat primitive, school all over

the world are enjoying this capability. Students are not only corresponding via E-Mail, but they have the added advantage of actually seeing the students they correspond with. CU-See-Me is a natural follow-up to the activities that occurred last year at Birch Meadow. Several teachers engaged in international E-Mail projects, namely a first-grade long-term Japanese exchange via E-mail and "snail mail." In addition, a fifth-grade class has a partner class in Hong Kong which students wish to meet via the CU-See-Me technology. Linda O'Leary, technology assistant at Birch Meadow, will be overseeing the implementation of this technology.

Costs for CU-See-Me: software and viz-camera package $250.00
High-speed 56K modem: approx. $100.00

The remaining funds will be used to pilot projects involving the creation of web pages. Teachers and/or students will be creating web pages and using them as a vehicle for intra-school communications and also for communication between home and school and among schools all over the world. Web pages are also produced in the form of "web quests," which is a teacher or student created resource that is placed on the Internet. A web quest makes use of various topic-related web links for students to research and explore. We are at the beginning stages of this and wish to use $150.00 for the purchase of an application such as Microsoft Front Page or Claris Home Page (2-3 copies) that will enable the creation of Web pages.

ARTICLE 2 - Timothy R. Twomey, Chairman, gave The following School Committee Report:

Over the past school year the Reading School Committee has had the pleasure of honoring some very special young people who have won state recognition in academic and athletic competitions. Tonight I would like to take a few moments to recognize the accomplishments of those schools and organizations. I would also like to take a moment to thank the professional staff for all the time and effort they put into making such accomplishments possible.

Last Thursday night, the Reading School Committee honored 34 teachers with more than 30 years of service and in May will be honoring the teachers with 25 to 30 years of service. This year in the faculty of the Reading Public Schools K-12, we have 42 teachers with 25 years to 30 years of service to young people everywhere, 26 teachers with 30 to 35 years of service, 7 teachers with 35 to 40 years of service, and 1 with more than 40 years of service. Tonight I would like to recognize those teachers. Please give them a hand.

Now I would like to take a few moments to recognize State Championships won by students in the following schools:

At the Reading Memorial High School:

The Drama Club
The National History Day
The model United Nations
The State Relay Champs
The Indoor Class B – Girls

At the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School

The Science Olympiad

At the Walter S. Parker Middle School:

The National Promising Young Writers Club
The Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award
The Massachusetts State Library Media Association

ARTICLE 2 - The following State of the Reading Public Library Report was given by Maria Silvaggi, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees:

Perhaps more than at any other time we can label this the year of the public library.

Last November, the Library of Congress heralded the centennial of its beautiful Jefferson Building, whose seed collection consisted of the 6487 books of Thomas Jefferson's library, which, you may recall, the retired President offered to the United States Congress after British troops burned the Capitol during the War of 1812. The celebration serves to remind us of Congress' far-sightedness in appropriating $23,950 to purchase the Jefferson collection, thus establishing the great national treasure that is the Library of Congress.

Closer to home, Boston Public Library is celebrating its sesquicentennial, boasting of the fact that it is the first publicly supported public library in the world, and focusing attention on the role a modern public library plays in our daily lives.

Like these venerable institutions, Reading Public Library – which is celebrating its 130th birthday this year – can point to a legacy of vision and public support by local citizens, town officials, and the local government's appropriating authority, Town Meeting, from its founding in 1868 with $500 from Horace Wakefield matching by an equal appropriation from Town Meeting.

As provident as those founders were, surely they never dreamed how loved and important to the community this public institution would become, or how vast or far-reaching its resources, nor how respected would be its reputation.

Reading is a community of library supporters who, in each consecutive year, increase usage of the service over the previous year. In this past year, our 22,500 registered patrons borrowed more than 300,000 items and asked us more than 40 thousand research questions.

Some of those questions take more time to answer because, as the reference librarians tell me, "We don't say we can't find answers anymore. Thanks to our technology which links us to resources throughout the world, we have access to information that wasn't available to us a few years ago."

The technology explosion has benefited our patrons enormously. In collaboration with Media One, the Library installed two computers with high-speed Internet access, in addition to the 14 computers already connected through the library's NOBLE (North of Boston Library Exchange) network. Internet classes for adults and seniors filled up quickly, and evaluations were very positive – although a suggestion for improvement by serving wine and cheese is one we, unfortunately, cannot implement!

Children's librarians taught Internet classes for elementary students, and "Read-alots's" weekly trivia questions motivated Internet use for those in grade 4 and up. Through Netguide program, high school students taught other students how to use the Internet.

Patrons began to use our e-mail service and our Web site to ask questions, request books, and renew library materials from home. "Project Place" a part of our Web site done in cooperation with Reading teachers, made major assignments available to children using the Internet at home or in the library.

Perhaps there is no better indication of the extent of the change in library service precipitated by technology than to note that the library's comprehensive long-range plan published just five years ago in January, never mentioned the word "Internet."

As we prepare to launch another state mandated five-year plan, we are confronted with the challenge of reading the future to discern what marvelous technological advances will impact library service of the 21st century. Whatever those inventions, they will not replace the printed word nor render obsolete the many offerings we provide. Indeed, demand for increased services has resulted in our expanding library hours so that we are now open seven days per week for most of the year. We will grow if our past history is any indication of our future.

Consider this: last year, nearly 10,000 people attended the 300 free programs organized by the Children's Room staff: storytimes, sing-alongs, class tours, booktalks, not to mention sleepovers.

There are now three monthly book discussion groups, two for adults and one for children. Storytimes for two-year olds were doubled because of the demand.

Adolescent author Caroline Cooney visited the Library and middle schools in March in a jointly run event.

A popular addition to the library is Bibliobites Café that opened last year, is managed by the Friends of the Library, and is supplied by "The Hot Spot."

In the past year we have worked with members of the Historical Commission and the Antiquarian Society to inventory the local history and genealogy collection, and with a grant from the Town's Celebration Trust, arranged for the rebinding and care of 65 of the most important and fragile local history volumes.

To put the Reading Public Library in perspective, according to the state public library rankings report, Reading Public Library is 8th in activity for its population division, but 15th in expenditure.

All is not paradise in the beautiful building on the hill, however.

During the past year, as welcome and necessary as the renovation of the HVAC system was, staff and patrons suffered the installation with its accompanying noise, dirt and inconvenience. It created much stress. We know their will be more.

The elegant, hospitable library building sitting majestically on Middlesex Avenue is, after all, a 101-year-old dowager confronting space-age technological demands. If it is to continue to satisfy the needs of an ever-growing number of patrons, and fulfill their expectations for modern service, it will require constant refurbishment and periodic major renovation.

In the past decade, the attentiveness of the Town Manager and willingness of Town Meeting to address this building's maintenance problems has resulted in a well-cared for structure that signals its stature as – to borrow Tom Stohlman's phrase – "the community's living room."

It goes without saying that the Board of Library Trustees is anxious that such diligent upkeep be continued under the new building maintenance collaborative.

No matter how inviting are the physical surroundings in which library service is delivered, it is the staff delivering that service that set the standard for its quality.

I am proud to stand before you and report that Reading Public Library enjoys a state-wide reputation for excellence thanks to its talented, well-trained hard-working and enthusiastic staff who are dedicated not only to satisfying our patrons needs but to trying to please patrons.

In this budget they seek your support in making salary adjustments that are long overdue.

As I noted in the beginning of this report, to be successful, the community and those in government who are responsible for making decisions must support a library. That Reading Public Library is outstanding is due in no small part to the far-sightedness of town officials and Town Meeting – those present and those of previous generations – which created the plans and provided the funding that have brought this library service to the glory of its present day.

As you prepare to accomplish this Town's business, we respectfully remind you that the Reading Public Library's future accomplishments will reflect the wisdom of the decisions you make today.

In conclusion, I speak personally and for the Board of Trustees in expressing our respect, admiration and appreciation for the accomplishments of Attorney William Diamond, who has retired after serving as a library trustee since 1957, and Mr. Robert Fields who died two weeks ago after serving as library trustee since 1966. Each has established a hallmark of excellence to which the Board will strive, and we are grateful to them for their example of dedication and service.

ARTICLE 2 - The following Rules Committee Report was given by Mark Johnson:

Introduction – Town Meeting will recall that an Instructional Motion was made at the 1997 Annual Town Meeting to have the Moderator, acting as the Chairman Pro-Tem(pore), call a meeting of the Rules Committee. The instructional motion went on to include the election of a chairman, to have the committee work with the Bylaw Committee seeking to change either the Town's bylaws or the Home Rule Charter in order to have the Moderator serve as the Chairman of the committee, and the requirement to have the Rules Committee meet annually. This is the report of the Rules Committee to Annual Town Meeting.

Rules Committee Meeting – The Rules Committee met on February 19, 1998, at Reading Town Hall. A chairman and clerk were elected. The committee discussed a variety of topics that had been submitted to the Moderator as a result of a letter that he had sent to all Town Meeting members, dated July 1, 1997. Selected topics and highlights of the discussion at the Rules Committee meeting follow.

The committee discussed the suggestion that the Moderator serve as Chairman. The conclusion was that the Moderator would be a member. It was further agreed that the committee would be called together by the Moderator within 30 days of the completion of Annual Town Meeting.

The committee also discussed:

- The distribution of warrant articles that had been revised between the printing of the warrant and their presentation at Town Meeting;
- The issue of moving the question as it relates to amendments made and the main motions to which they are made;

- ❖ The issue of reorganizing non-Town Meeting members who wish to speak at Town Meeting;
- ❖ The procedure for voting on the budget article;
- ❖ The removal of Town Meeting members by means of the existing Bylaw; and
- ❖ The overall conduct of Town Meeting.

Summary – The Rules Committee concluded that Town Meeting was being well conducted. The Moderator would take the various suggestions made and use them during the course of Town Meeting. The Rules Committee will work with the Bylaw Committee in order to include the Moderator as a member of the Rules Committee.

The minutes of the Rules Committee are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 2 be tabled.

ARTICLE 3 - On instructional motion by John K. Downey, Precinct 8, should the Selectmen solicit bids for the use of the Landfill site for retail use? Please direct this vote to the Board of Selectmen and the Reading Business Park Task Force for their consideration when the bids close July 1, 1998.

On motion by Mark Jackson to move the question:

2/3 vote required
76 in the affirmative
50 in the negative

Motion to move the question did not pass.

Instructional Motion carried.

ARTICLE 3 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 3 be tabled.

ARTICLE 4 - On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 4 be indefinitely postponed.

ARTICLE 5 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to accept the sum of $211,205.05 from the estate of Dorothy Burbank and to establish a Trust Fund in the custody of the Commissioners of Trust Funds. The principal and interest on said fund shall be expended for Elder Services under the direction of the Council on Aging in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

ARTICLE 6 - On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 6 be tabled.

ARTICLE 7 – On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was to amend one or more of the votes taken under Article 22 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of April 14, 1997 as amended under Article 5 of the November 10, 1997 Subsequent Town Meeting and as further amended under Article 4 of the March 9, 1998 Special Town Meeting, relating to the Fiscal Year 1998 Municipal Budget, and to transfer from available funds and appropriate as the result of such amended votes for the operation of the Town and its government the following:

Budget #	Description	Change in adopted budget	New Budget Amount	FINCOM Recommendation
B6	Inspections - Personal Services	$675	$85,271	
B7	Inspections - Non-Personal Expenses	$250	$2,540	
B9	Community Development - Non-Personal Expenses	$300	$2,150	
C8	Technology – Non-Personal Expenses	$6,000	$99,997	
C10	Personnel - Non-Personal Expenses	$2,000	$41,844	
C11	Finance - Personal Services	$2,000	$223,171	
D5	Law - Labor Counsel	$4,000	$34,000	
D6	Law - Expenses	$4,000	$10,000	
D11	Property and Casualty Insurance	-$10,000	$86,328	
E2	Health - Non-Personal Expenses	-$15,000	$46,087	
E8	Recreation - Personal Services	$125	$39,322	
E10	Human Services - Personal Services	$1,600	$50,565	
G3	Animal Control - Personal Services	$700	$14,460	
G5	Fire - Personal Services	$150,000	$2,531,492	
G6	Fire - Non-Personal Expenses	$7,150	$106,685	
G7	Dispatch - Personal Services	$6,000	$239,719	
H11	DPW - Personal Services	-$65,000	$1,085,143	
H12	DPW - Non-Personal Expenses	$39,000	$410,315	
H15	Snow and Ice control	$55,000	$287,467	
L7	Police and Fire Indemnification	$9,000	$29,000	
J1	Schools - Special Needs	$75,000	$21,385,801	
J2	Schools – Town Building Maintenance	$27,625	$389,504	
	Net Change – General Fund	$300,425		Free Cash
N1	Sewer – Personal Services	$14,500	$172,067	Sewer Reserve
N4	Capital Outlay	$80,000	$198,593	Sewer Reserve

ARTICLE 8 – On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 8 be tabled.

ARTICLE 9 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell, or exchange, or dispose of, upon such terms and conditions as they may determine, the following items of Town tangible property:

- 1970 Sicard Snow-Blower
- 1982 GMC Dump Truck
- 3 Police Cars
- Digital B1000 Printer
- Miscellaneous computer equipment including monitors, printers, computers and keyboards

ARTICLE 10 – On motion by Jonathan E. Barnes, Community Planning and Development Commission, it was voted to transfer from the funds obtained under that certain agreement described below for Strawberry Hill Subdivision the sum of twenty thousand dollars ($ 20,000) for the purpose of completion of construction according to approved plans for a subdivision known as "Strawberry Hill Lane" and conditions of approval of said plans, which approval was granted by the Community Planning and Development Commission on September 11, 1995, in accordance with the terms of a certain Agreement entered into and executed to the benefit of the Town of Reading on December 4, 1995 by the Wakefield Development Corporation, the Danvers Savings Bank, and said Commission, pursuant to the Rules and Regulations Governing the Subdivision of Land in Reading and in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, such funds to be expended by and under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 11 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to establish a revolving fund under Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 of the General Laws for the purpose of using the receipts generated through the sale of compost bins to purchase additional compost bins, and to pay for related expenditures pursuant to a program administered by the Department of Public Works, and to authorize expenditures not exceeding $2500 during Fiscal Year 1999.

ARTICLE 12 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was voted to establish a revolving fund in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of using the receipts from antennae licenses on the Town's water towers, to fund community improvements pursuant to a community improvement program to be administered by the Town Manager under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, and to authorize expenditures not exceeding $48,000 during Fiscal Year 1999.

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, to move the question.

2/3 vote required
82 voted in the affirmative
46 voted in the negative

Motion did not carry.

On motion by Mark W. Jackson, Precinct 4, to add "in the Auburn Street and Parkview neighborhood" after the word improvements.

Counted vote requested
67 voted in the affirmative
54 voted in the negative

Motion to amend carries.

On motion by Stephen M. Conner, Precinct 4, to amend Article 12 by replacing the word "community" after the word "fund" with "capital" and by replacing "a community improvement program" with "the overall CIP".

Motion to amend did not carry.

Original Motion as amended:

Counted vote requested
78 voted in the affirmative
41 voted in the negative

Motion as amended carries.

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted that this Annual Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Thursday, April 16, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

166 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **April 16, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:40 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Robert Sweet of the Old South United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A Patriot's Day Walking Tour will be conducted by the Reading Historical Commission on Sunday, April 19, 1998 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The Foster-Emerson House on Grove Street will be featured along with Franklin Street houses of Reading Patriots.

Everyone is welcome. Start at Franklin Street and Pasture Road on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Point of Privilege by Russell T. Graham, Precinct 4, presenting the following resolution:

RESOLUTION HONORING BENJAMIN NICHOLS

WHEREAS: Benjamin Nichols has served the Town of Reading in a multitude of roles, following in the tradition of a venerable family steeped in the rich history of Reading; and

WHEREAS: He has served Town Meeting with particular distinction always advocating for the right as he saw it; and

WHEREAS: Benjamin Nichols has served the environment and open space of Reading by zealously guarding and seeking to expand their horizons; and

WHEREAS: He has served the Boy Scouts of America and thereby served the youth of Reading, consistently offering to them an exemplary life of honor and community service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Town Meeting assembled on April 16, 1998, that on the occasion of his having attained ninety years of fruitful and productive life, the community wishes to express their sincere respect everlasting gratitude and deep affection to him in honor of the extraordinary service he has rendered to the Town he so dearly loves and be it further resolved that this resolution be made a permanent record of the Town of Reading, as a lasting testament to the special place he holds in the heart of the Reading community.

ARTICLE 8 - On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved to remove Article 8 from the table.

ARTICLE 8 - On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was voted to adopt the Capital Improvements program entitled "Town of Reading, Massachusetts Ten Year Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Years 1999 - 2008" dated 10-April-98 as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter. (See attached blue sheets)

ARTICLE 13 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 13 be tabled.

ARTICLE 14 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing, in anticipation of reimbursement from the State under Chapter 44, Section 6, Massachusetts General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of $437,000 for highway projects in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 15 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the YMCA of Greater Boston, Inc., the Reading Ice Arena Authority, Inc. and/or any other party for the construction or remodeling, reconstruction or making extraordinary repairs to a swimming pool and accessory uses and structures on land of the YMCA of Greater Boston, Inc., on Arthur B. Lord Drive and relating to the use of said swimming pool and accessory uses and structures by the Town of Reading; and that the Town vote to authorize that certain funds due to the Town, as Lessor, from the Reading Ice Arena Authority, Inc., as Lessee, pursuant to the Indenture of Lease dated February 23, 1993, as amended, up to the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000) together with interest thereon at the rate of Six Percent (6%), be assigned to the YMCA of Greater Boston, Inc., for the Town's share in the construction or remodeling, reconstruction or making extraordinary repairs to such swimming pool and accessory uses and structures and for the financial obligations of the Town in connection with the Town's use of such swimming pool and accessory uses and structures in accordance with the aforesaid agreement; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all contracts and agreements and to amend the aforesaid Indenture of Lease dated February 23, 1993 as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Article.

ARTICLE 16 – On motion by Timothy R. Twomey, member of the School Committee, it was voted to support the School Department leasing classroom and accessory space in private buildings in order to resolve present and anticipated needs for classroom space at several of the Town's schools and for other educational purposes; any such lease to be for an initial term of not more than five years and upon such other terms and conditions as the School Committee shall consider proper.

Jacalyn S. Wallace, Precinct 3, raised the following questions to Dr. Harry Harutunian:

What is the cost to rent classroom space at the parochial school – please provide breakdown by area and classroom per month?

What are we the Reading School System charging for rental of classroom space to Media One, REAP and Cultural Connections?

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
106 voted in the affirmative
47 voted in the negative

Motion to move the question carried.

Original Motion carried.

ARTICLE 17 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 32, Section 103 of the Massachusetts General Laws which provides for the payment of cost of living adjustments to retirees in the Town's contributory retirement system; and that the Town votes to provide the same cost of living adjustments to noncontributory system retirees of the Town of Reading.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 18.

ARTICLE 19 – On motion by Jonathan E. Barnes, member of the Community Planning and Development Commission and Conservation Commission, it was voted pursuant to Section 5.8.1 of the General Bylaws of the Town to designate Mill Street as a Scenic Road.

On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted that this Annual Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Monday, April 27, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

161 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **April 27, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:42 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Interim Associate Pastor Jane Fadden of the First Congregational Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Frances C. Sansalone, Precinct 1, requested a "Point of Personal Privilege." A word of Recognition for RMHS Boys Outdoor Track Team.

For more than 26 years the Reading Memorial High School Boys' Outdoor Track Team has owned an unbeaten record in Middlesex League dual meets. Their string of victories constitutes a national record in high school sports. Today, under a questionable officiating call, that string was broken when Reading lost to Woburn High School.

During those years, hundred and hundreds of high school boys have learned invaluable lessons – about track and field and about life – under the direction and education of Hal Croft and his assistants (currently Pete Rittenberg and John Fiore).

More than many sports, track and field participants compete against themselves as well as against their rivals. The high school's success for both boys' and girls' teams has resulted in an amazing participation of approximately one-fifth of the student body in track and field. It is a testament of the coaching staff and to the outstanding performances of the many participants over the years. Despite the loss in today's meet, the team and coaching staff deserve our recognition and honor and respect for their unflagging dedication and for a job spectacularly done over the years.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to move that the Town raise by borrowing, or from the tax levy, or transfer from available funds, and appropriate the sum of $49,777,942 for the operation of the Town and its Government for Fiscal Year 1999 beginning July 1, 1998.

FY 1999 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Peter I. Hechenbleikner, Town Manager

This is the 12th budget that has been prepared and presented to Town Meeting since the inception of our new form of Town government. Unfortunately, budgets are not "Cheaper by the Dozen", and the operation of this Town government is no exception.

In future years, FY 1999 and the preceding three years will be referred to as the "good old days". The budgets approved since FY 1996, and the budget proposed for FY 1999, represent almost a 19% increase, all without a proposition 2-½ override.

But many in this room will remember the "bad old days" when our budgets actually declined from year to year, and I'm sure we are all committed to avoid that scenario again if possible. Therefore, this is a time for thoughtful and conservative financial decisions, and for investment in the future of this community.

As this slide demonstrates, the revenues available for FY 1999 have increased 6.92% excluding the use of the "Sale of Real Estate" fund. This is on top of a 7% increase last year, and a 5.30 % increase the previous year. Looking forward, that level of expenditure is not sustainable unless there is an increase in the source of funds available – through a Proposition 2 ½ override or other increase. If Free cash were not to be used next year, the funds available for balancing the FY 2000 budget would increase only $1.8 million, compared to the $2.9 million increase this year. The prognosis going forward is no better, especially when you discount the increase in State funding of SBAB for reimbursement of school building projects, which is to be devoted to capital needs.

Town Meeting should be aware that one version of the State Budget would increase the amount of State Aid to Reading by $130,000. Since the State Budget will not be passed until late June, the prudent course of action would be for the Town to move forward with the budget as proposed, and then consider revisions in the fall if that is appropriate.

A part of the revenue picture of the community is the cash reserve status. Going into FY 1998, the Town had cash reserves (made up of free cash and the reserve fund) of $2,390,000, or 5.6% of the operating budget. This compares to a goal of 5%. The current projection of "cash reserves" is that effective July 1, 1998, we will have $1,775,000, or 4% of the operating budget. FINCOM has warned that it will not recommend the use of any Free Cash to fund the FY 1999 budget beyond what is shown tonight. A cash reserve level of 4% is not bad, and in years past we would have been ecstatic with such levels. By itself, this is a healthy level of cash reserves. However, the trend is troubling because it is in the wrong direction.

Equally troubling is the trend in our reserves for the water and sewer enterprise systems. In the past 4 years, the sewer reserve has gone from $824,000 to $416,000 or 50% less in 4 years. Similarly, the water reserves now stand at $240,000, compared to $800,000 four years ago. These funds have been used to offset rate increases, and the Board of Selectmen is looking at setting up rate stabilization funds in order to level out the changes in rates.

Relative to expenses in the FY 1999 budget, we will be presenting details of the Department Budgets as we proceed. Some general comments on the factors that shape this budget are appropriate:

- There is an increasing demand for services within the Town from a number of sources including: local school enrollment increases, Vocational School District enrollment increases, education reform, increased use of services like libraries and recreation programs, response to resident needs in the areas of condo rubbish

collection and compost center operation, and Cost of Living Adjustments for our retirees;

- There are a number of major projects facing the Town, with a limited staff ability to deal effectively with them. These include the Landfill Closure, marketing the Reading Business Park, Downtown Improvements, evaluation and determination of our long term water supply, and Open Space acquisition;
- There has been an attempt in this budget to reduce expenses through consolidation of services in several areas such as clerical positions in the Finance Department, and consolidation of the supervisor's position in Parks, Forestry, and Cemeteries;
- There are 12 labor union contracts that are unsettled as of this date, for a term starting 7-1-98;
- A Police staffing and deployment study has been completed, and a number of recommendations have been made. A couple are being addressed in the FY 1999 budget, but more needs to be done;
- A study of consolidated building maintenance has been completed, but no meaningful discussion has yet taken place as to the implementation of the recommendations;

As we review the budget as recommended by the FINCOM, you will observe a well-balanced and fiscally conservative document. There are two trends that are of concern, however, and which will need action in the future. These include:

- A dis-investment in building maintenance – the proposed budget increase in the Town Building Maintenance has been reduced by $30,000 to a figure that is unrealistic, and this issue will need to be reviewed as part of the consolidated building maintenance project;
- The Capital Improvement Program is under-funded by over $250,000. Cuts in technology, street reconstruction, open space acquisition, oil tank removal and replacement, and fencing of public lands have been made. In order to maintain the funding for capital for future years as approved in the Capital Improvements Program, this reduction needs to be made up and then increased on an annual basis.

The budget is a collaborative process – not the result of one individual or one Town Board, Committee, or Commission. It needs to continue to be collaborative to be successful. I want to acknowledge the hard work on the part of Department Heads; Volunteer Boards, Committees, and Commissions; and particularly the Board of Selectmen, FINCOM and the School Committee. Not all participants agree on the results, but the process makes us strong as a community.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

James Keigley, Chairman

At Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee traditionally explains the budget process to Town Meeting and also reports on the Town's finances. At this time, I

would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee who each contributed ideas to include in this report.

The Reading Town Charter requires that the Town Manager submit annually a recommended budget for review by the Finance Committee. On January 29, 1998, we received copies of the proposed fiscal year 1999 budget.

The By-laws of the Town of Reading require the Finance Committee to make recommendations on all town meeting articles that include the transfer, raising and appropriation of funds. The Committee has met regularly since early February to review a myriad of written material provided by municipal and school budget makers. Department Heads joined the Town Manager at these meetings to explain the operations and programs offered by the town government. The Finance Department estimates available revenues for FY 99 at $44,644,361. This is an increase of 6.92% over FY 98. The problem was that budget requests far exceeded the increase in available revenues. Trimming the budget is always difficult but this year it was particularly troublesome. In recent years the FINCOM has elected to determine the amounts that needed to be cut from the proposed expenses for the Town and School, and which items, if any, should be cut from the appropriations for the Capital Plan. The Board of Selectmen and School Board re-evaluated their priorities and adjusted their proposals. This year's budget deficit of budget requests over available revenues was $1.9M. The balanced budget presented in your warrant was achieved by the use of $320,000 overlay funds released by the Assessors, the use of $560,000 in Free Cash, and cuts in the proposed new programs for the Town, of $400,000, cuts in the proposed new programs for the school of $600,000, and cuts in the proposed Capital Program of $300,000. This meant that the estimated level of free cash and reserves projected for July 1, 1998 would be $1,775,000, or 4.0% of the budget. This is below the goal of 5% reserves set out in FINCOM's policy. This decision to recommend reducing the Town's reserves was not an easy one.

The process was very lengthy and difficult. When we started the process, there were a lot of unknowns. The numbers changed even up to the night we voted the final budget. The budget does balance without an override and with the use of $560,000 in free cash and $320,000 in overlay. Instead of voting each line item of the final budget request, the Finance Committee voted 7:0:0 to recommend the entire FY 99 budget as shown in the warrant. Controversial items included cuts in proposed Capital appropriations to increase funding in the school operating budget: $20,000 for school fences, $40,000 for removal of oil storage tanks, $30,000 in building maintenance and $75,000 in technology. The State Legislature voted to stop funding COLA's. Article 17 asked the town to accept this responsibility due to the fact that the Town had benefited from the rising stock market. The most recent actuarial study suggests that the Town could have its pension funding reduced by $330,000. This is money that could have been used to fund the rest of the operating budget. Since the Town decided to fund the COLA's, our pension funding will increase by $126,000. This will use the savings and increase the amount by $126,000. Prior to the budget process, the Board of Selectmen voted to fund the trash pickup of the condominium units in the Town. This budget reflects this new cost.

We anticipate that next year will be even more difficult as we are in the process of: negotiating 12 new labor contracts which will hopefully soon be settled; the continued press of Ed reform; badly needed maintenance; increasing school enrollment; the Town assuming the cost of the fast cop program.

FINCOM member, Cathy Martin, researched the history of Free Cash. This chart shows the level of Free Cash for the past eleven years. The bars represent the Town's Free Cash position at YE (dollar amount on the left side of the graph) and the points display the percentage of Free Cash to Operating Budget (percentages on the right side of the graph). During that period we dropped from a high of $2.5M in 1988 to a low of $220K in 1992, and climbed back to last year's $2.2M. The Town Accountant, Richard Foley, has projected that Free Cash will decline to $1.6M, matching the 11-year average of $1.3M. The percentage of Free Cash to Operating Budget has similarly dropped from 9.1% to .7%, rising back to 5.7% for last year. The 11-year average is 3.9%.

In many respects Reading is a wealthy community. We are blessed with townspeople who freely give of themselves to help others. Those who volunteer enrich our schools, town library, recreation programs, and churches. While located less than 15 miles from Boston, we are designated a "Tree City" by the National Arbor Foundation and our tree lined roads evoke a more rural setting. Our schools are considered to be among the best in the area. Many of our public buildings have been refurbished and others will be renovated in the near future. Our fiscal planning is a rare collaborative effort by the Board of Selectmen, the School Board, and the Finance Committee. Our conservative practices and ten-year Capital Plan aided in the recent improvement in the Town's bond rating.

The FINCOM is sensitive to the fact that the residential tax rate in Reading is the thirty-seventh highest amongst the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The average residential tax bill in Reading is three thousand two hundred seventy-three dollars ($3,273.00) annually. The Finance Committee's mission will be to advise Town Meeting in the most efficient way to address the Town's business. The Finance Committee will be working diligently with the Budget Council to establish budget guidelines for the FY 00 budget. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor the budget process to bring forth a balanced budget, which the Town can afford, and which can provide as many services as possible to Reading citizens.

The Finance Committee, by a vote of 7:2:0, recommends adoption of the budget as presented. The recommended budget before Town Meeting is in balance and in compliance with the levy limit as mandated by the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items A1 and A2 (Accounting Department):

$91,388 to be provided as follows:

Lines A1 and A2
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items B1 through B9 (Community Development Department):

$227,924 to be provided as follows:

Line B1
$940 from wetland fees

The remainder of Line B1 and Line B2 through B9
From property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item B6 (Inspection Services) of FY 99 from $90,275 to $78,221.

Motion to amend did not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items C1 through C12 (Finance Department):

$821,859 to be provided as follows:

Lines C1 through C12
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items D1 through D13 (General Services Department):

$648,867 to be provided as follows:

Lines D1 through D13
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item D4 of FY 99 from $109,777 to $89,777.

Motion to amend did not carry.

On motion by Frederick Van Magness, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item D6 (Law Division) of FY 99 from $7,500 to $10,000.

Motion to amend did not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items E1 through E11 (Human Services Department):

$386,462 to be provided as follows:

Lines E1 through E11
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items F1 and F2 (Library Department):

$724,260 to be provided as follows:

Lines F1 and F2
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by Matthew Cummings, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item F2 (Library) of FY 99 from $137,970 to $147,970.

Motion to amend did not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items G1 through G8 (Public Safety Department):

$5,414,966 to be provided as follows:

Lines G1 through G8
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by John D. Wood, Precinct 2, to amend Line Item G3 (Animal Control) of FY 99 from $14,104 to -0- and Line Item G5 of FY 99 from $2,318,275 to 2,332,379.

Motion to amend did not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line items H11 through H19 (Department of Public Works):

$3,098,274 to be provided as follows:

Lines H11 through H15
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.
Line H16
$72,761 from cemetery bequest with the remainder from property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.
Line H17
$20,000 from cemetery sale of lots with the remainder from property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by Pasquale M. Iapicca, Precinct 8, it was moved to table Line Item H13 (Street Lighting).

On motion by Daniel A. Ensminger, Precinct 7, it was moved to amend Line Item H14 (Rubbish Collection – Condos) of FY 99 from $913,393 to $877,115.

Motion to amend carries.

On motion by Fred Van Magness, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item H15 (Snow and Ice Control) of FY 99 from $192,301 to $250,000.

Motion to amend did not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was moved that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items J1 through J2 (School Department):

$23,472,007 to be provided as follows:

Lines J1 through J2
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by Nancy M. Graham, Precinct 4, it was voted to move the question on Line Items J1 through J2.

2/3 vote required
88 voted in the affirmative
35 voted in the negative

Motion to move the question on Items J1 through J2 carried.

On motion by Daniel A. Ensminger, Precinct 7, to amend Line Item J1 (School Department) of FY 99 from $22,909,000 to $22,945,278.

Motion to amend did not carry.

Counted vote requested
58 voted in the affirmative
69 voted in the negative

On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend Line Item J1 (School Department) of FY 99 from $22,909,000 to 22,935,278.

Motion to amend did not carry.

Counted vote requested
62 voted in the affirmative
62 voted in the negative

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted that this Annual Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Thursday, April 30, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

149 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **April 30, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:44 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Arthur Flynn of St. Agnes Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to remove Line Item H13 (Street Lighting) from the table.

On motion by Pasquale M. Iapicca, Precinct 8, to increase Line Item H13 by $19,418 to relight street lights that were previously shut off.

Motion does not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items K1 through K44 (Debt Service and Capital):

$3,923,455 to be provided as follows:

Line K1
$152,135 from sale of real estate funds, $58,500 from cemetery bequests, and the remainder from property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

Line K2 through K44
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by Fred Van Magness, Precinct 8, it was moved to increase Line Item K4 (Oil Tank Removal) by $40,000 to replace/retrofit the school's oil tanks.

Amendment to Line Item K4 is carried.

On motion by William J. Hughes, Jr., Precinct 7, it was voted to move the question on Line Item K.

2/3 vote required
103 voted in the affirmative
32 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items L1 through L7 (Employee Benefits):

$5,303,253 to be provided as follows:

Line L1
$558,730 from certified free cash; $320,000 from abatement surplus with the remainder from property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.
Lines L2, L3, L4, L5, L6 and L7
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items M1 through M4 (Water Fund):

$2,433,887 to be provided as follows:

Line M4
$19,456 from water reserves

Lines M1 through M3 and the remainder of M4
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

On motion by Philip B. Pacino, Precinct 4, to amend Line M4 from $19,456 to -0- from water reserves until Finance Committee votes on it.

Motion does not carry.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted that the Town approve and appropriate the proposed FY 1999 Budget as presented for Line Items N1 through N4 (Sewer Fund):

$3,231,340 to be provided as follows:

Lines N1 through N4
Property taxes, state aid and non-property tax local receipts.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted that the Town appropriate for the FY 1999 Budget, exclusive of State and County Assessments and exclusive of previous years snow/ice, the sum of:

$49,781,664
Representing the total of all previously made motions under Article 18 as amended:

Funds are to be provided as set forth in said previously made motions.

ARTICLE 20 – On motion by Thomas J. Stohlman, Jr., Precinct 5, it was voted to amend Section 4.4.3 of the General Bylaws of the Town by deleting the second sentence thereof which provides:

"Notwithstanding anything in Section 17 of Chapter 268A to the contrary, a Special Municipal Employee, as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 268A, shall be subject to paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 17 of Chapter 268A to the same extent as a non-special municipal employee.", so that Section 4.4.3 shall read as follows:

"4.4.3 No present or former municipal employee shall violate any of the conflict of interest provisions in Chapter 268A of the General Laws, as amended from time to time."

ARTICLE 21 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend Section 5.6 of the General Bylaws of the Town as follows:

1. Amend Section 5.6 by deleting the caption "Dog Leash Law" and substituting therefor the caption "Dog Control Laws"; and

2. Add the following as Section 5.6.8: "The owner or keeper of any dog shall be responsible for the prompt removal of any feces deposited by the dog on public or private property, except on the property of the owner or keeper or otherwise with the permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The owner or keeper of a dog who does not comply with this Section 5.6.8 shall be punishable by warning or fine as follows: The Animal Control Officer shall issue a written warning to such owner or keeper for the first offense within a calendar year. The Animal Control Officer shall levy a fine of Twenty Dollars ($20.00) for the second offense within a calendar year, Thirty Dollars ($30.00) for the third offense within a calendar year, and Fifty Dollars ($50.00) for each subsequent offense within a calendar year. The provisions of this Section 5.6.8 shall not apply to a handicapped person who has the charge or control of a guide dog."

On motion by Philip D. LeBlanc, Precinct 2, it was moved to amend Article 21 by adding the words "or helper dog" after the words "guide dog".

Original motion as amended carried.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, it was voted to amend the Town of Reading General Bylaws by adding the following:

2.2.9 Rules Committee
2.2.10

The members of the Rules Committee, established under Section 2-12 of the Reading Home Rule Charter, shall hold an annual meeting within 30 days after the adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of electing a chairman and a clerk and to conduct whatever business may be appropriate. Additional Rules Committee meetings may be called by the chairman. In the absence of a chairman the Moderator shall convene a meeting of the Rules Committee within 60 days after a vacancy for the purpose of electing a new chairman.

Ms. Eaton requested holding the meeting at a time convenient to all eight chairs so that they can be present and not at another meeting.

ARTICLE 23 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Precinct 4, it was voted to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Reading by adding thereto a new Section 5.16 which shall read as follows:

"5.16 Outdoor Loudspeakers and Public Address Systems:

No commercial establishment shall install or operate any outdoor loudspeaker or public address system on its premises except for the sole purpose of direct communication with a customer to assist that customer or to conduct a specific business transaction at the commercial establishment, as for example at a drive-up window of a fast food or banking establishment, or at self-service gasoline pumps. Any such loudspeaker or public address system shall be operated only during the regular business hours of the establishment. The owner of the establishment shall at all times ensure that the volume of sound produced outdoors by such loudspeaker or public address system shall be such as not to be audible from any portion of a public way or residential property. The use of any outdoor loudspeaker or public address system at any time for playing music, for advertising, for promoting sales events or sale of any item of goods or services, or for any other purpose than that specified above, is prohibited."

On motion by Thomas J. Stohlman, Jr., Precinct 5, it was moved to amend the last section by deleting "The use of any outdoor loudspeaker or public address system at any time for playing music, for advertising, for promoting sales events or sale of any item of goods or services, or for any other purpose than that specified above, is prohibited."

Amendment carried.

On motion by Philip D. LeBlanc, Precinct 2, to remove the word "commercial".

Amendment withdrawn.

On motion by James Keigley, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
104 voted in the affirmative
24 voted in the negative

Motion as amended carries.

ARTICLE 24 - On motion by Ronald L. Wood, Precinct 3, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 24 be tabled.

ARTICLE 25 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted pursuant to Section 2-6 of the Reading Home Rule Charter to declare the seats of the following Town Meeting Members to be vacant and to remove the following described persons from their position as Town Meeting Members for failure to attend one-half or more of the Town Meeting sessions during the previous year.

Precinct 2	Paul F. Feely Jr.
	Edward F. Foley
	Steven E. McLaughlin
~~Precinct 3~~	~~Eugena Zangas~~
~~Precinct 5~~	~~William O. Stroman~~

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was moved to remove Article 2 from the table.

ARTICLE 2 – Report by Ted Cohen – Adult Entertainment.

Town of Reading, et al. V. Santorelli, et al. Denied the Town's request or a preliminary injunction to enforce Readings Zoning By-Laws relating to adult uses against Video Expo, it has granted a preliminary injunction to Video Expo enjoining the Town to "prevent, restrict or restrain...Video Expo from operating an adult establishment at 1349 Main Street."

While the Court has ruled against the Town on these injunctions, it has done so because it found two specific areas where an "otherwise thoughtful and innovative ordinance does not give to...speech the protections the Constitutions require." The two areas where the Court found the By-Law is deficient relate to the availability of adequate channels for adult communications in the Town and an overly broad grant of administrative discretion to the Board of Appeals in granting a special permit.

With regard to alternative channels, the Court concluded that restricting adult uses to Industrial Districts subject to certain distance setback requirements results in an area available to adult uses of 38.6 acres or approximately 0.6% of the Town's total area. Those 38.6 acres are comprised of five parcels and portions of four more and two of the parcels are Town-owned wetlands. The Court stated: "The others are privately owned and are apparently in full use. There is no suggestion that any of those parcels, or portions of them, are for sale or lease now, that any have been for sale or lease in the recent past or that they are likely to be for sale or lease at any time in the foreseeable future. On this record, then, confining 'adult uses' to that small area of the Town is likely to prevent operation of any such uses within the Town limits. Thus viewed, the By-Laws are not impediments to obtaining a prime site for 'adult uses.' Instead, they effectively foreclose any opportunity for speech of the type in which Video Expo wishes to engage."

With regard to overly broad discretion in the Board of Appeals, the Court held that the grant of the power that the Board "may" issue a special permit and that the Board may add conditions which the Board deems appropriate to advance the "public health,

safety and welfare" is a grant of discretionary power inconsistent with the constitutional rights afforded to speech.

Notwithstanding the Court's conclusions on these two issues, the Court did uphold virtually every other aspect of the By-Law and the procedure by which it was adopted. Specifically, the Court held that G.L. c. 40A, Section 6, the state statute which authorizes a zoning by-law which does not grandfather adult uses is constitutional. In reaching that conclusion the Court differentiated the Reading case from the New Bedford case where a Court held that Section 6 was unconstitutional. The Court also appears to uphold in theory those provisions of the By-Law which deny grandfathered rights to adult uses, although whether those rights can be denied in any particular case may be subject to the specific facts of the case. The Court further concluded that the By-Law, together with the state statute, do no constitute an unconstitutional taking of Video Expo's property, and also analyzed whether the By-Law is a content-neutral regulation on speech which is permissible if it is "designed to serve a substantial governmental interest and allows for reasonable alternative avenues of communication." The Court concluded that the Town "has made a proper showing that the By-Law is truly aimed, not at surpressing speech, but at the secondary effects of 'adult uses'."

Finally, on the issue of irreparable harm, which the Court has to review in order to grant an injunction, the Court agreed with Video Expo's assertion "that even temporary loss of First Amendment freedoms or freedoms Article 16 safeguards in and of itself creates irreparable harm." With respect to the Town's assertion of irreparable harm to the Town and the public interest, the Court acknowledged that "the concerns that gave rise to the By-Law in the first place" are "concerns that are strong and deeply felt," but concludes on the record before it "there is no showing that the generalized concerns that produced the By-Law in fact have attended defendants' operation of their business."

The decision concludes: "In many respects, this By-Law represents a thoughtful and innovative way of dealing with an anticipated set of difficult problems flowing from the operation of a business of a type that elsewhere has contributed to urban blight and decay. That business, however, involves speech. Although much [of] that speech lies at the margin of social acceptance, it is nonetheless entitled to the full protection of the First Amendment and of Article 16. In the respects outlined above, this otherwise thoughtful and innovative ordinance does not give to that speech the protections the Constitutions require."

Based upon the foregoing, I recommend that the concerns raised in this decision be referred back to CPDC for review and analysis, so that CPDC can determine whether to propose amendments to the By-Law to some future Town Meeting so as to address and remedy the deficiencies found by the Court.

ARTICLE 2 – The following update on the Reading Business Park Development was presented by George C. Hines, member of the Board of Selectmen:

We would like to update Town Meeting on the Reading Business Park Development. First, given the recent activity a few preliminary comments on the background of this project are in order. Since the original consultant recommendation in the mid-seventies to close the landfill and the final cessation of active landfill operations in the eighties the Town has been following a course of action that would maximize the long-term financial return to the Town. Investments have been made by the Town toward that end. With one glaring exception, selling a portion of the parcel to a car dealership, the measures the Town has taken have been very prudent efforts toward the long-term goal. Throughout the long process there have been innumerable meetings and the overall process has been very much an open public initiative. Much of the activity involved the doomed Homart project but that project demonstrated that the long-term vision for the property is achievable.

The Board of Selectmen has remained committed to an open process and even went to the extent of fulfilling a Town Meeting request to hold a public hearing on the request for proposals. Town officials intimately involved with the project, staff and consultants far outnumbered public attendance at that hearing.

The Homart project became a victim of the market economy but with patience, the market can also aid us in attracting a project that will achieve our goal. Toward that end, the Selectmen have continued the effort toward the sale of the property. I have been designated by the Board to Chair the development advisory committee and two meetings have already been conducted since the Board voted to reject the two unsatisfactory bids which were received as a result of the previous advertisement. The first of those meetings was attended by two to three non-committee members who contributed to the dialogue. The next meeting received no attendance outside the committee members. The results of the meetings were recommendations to revise the RFP, hire a marketing consultant and delay the re-bidding until a consultant is hired. The Selectmen this week voted to accept the revisions to the RFP, proceed with hiring a marketing consultant and to proceed immediately with re-advertising the RFP. The reasons for not following the committee's recommendation to delay the bidding include; attempting to maintain the schedule which has been developed for the project a schedule which contains state environmental requirements; a desire to remain proactive during a hot real estate economy; and the recent publicity and interest generated in the local and national media has generated substantial interest from the development community demonstrated by phone calls to Town Hall, and Board members and other interested parties. Modifications to the RFP include: streamlining the language; reducing the price of the bid package; broadening the language to allow for the inclusion of retail (As before there is no outright prohibition of retail proposals. Such proposals will be evaluated on the criteria as any other proposal.); and lengthening the advertisement period. These changes respond to comments received as part of the process of evaluating the past process and allow for us to pursue the concurrent procedure of hiring a marketing consultant. We

anticipate that a consultant can be hired by late May early June and the RFP responses will not be due until approximately mid August.

The Selectmen remain committed to pursuing a successful achievement of this project and I have experienced a high level of energy, enthusiasm and commitment from the advisory committee members also. After a formal open appointment process this committee will be requested by the Selectmen to officially screen the proposals received and make a recommendation to the Board. We will continue to keep Town Meeting informed as the process continues.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to place Article 2 on the table.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Robert A. Brown, Precinct 6, it was moved to remove Article 3 from the table.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Robert A. Brown, Precinct 6, it was moved to instruct the Board of Selectmen to prepare an article for consideration at the Fall or next Town Meeting for condominiums in Reading to receive trash and recycling pickup and to prepare an additional article allowing a revolving fund to be set up using funds received from Municipal Recycling Incentive Procedure (MRIP) grants.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Robert R. Lynch, Precinct 6, it was moved to instruct the Selectmen in the RFP for the dump land, the complete dumpsite, for consideration for retail and/or official park use.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Thomas J. Green, Jr., Precinct 6, to instruct the Board of Selectmen to remove the water restrictions, for all months except May through August, that were imposed due to closure of town wells if those town wells are now safe to reopen.

On motion by Daniel A. Ensminger, Precinct 7, to amend Article 3 (water restrictions) by adding the words "for all months except May through August" after the words "water restrictions.

Motion to amend does not carry.

Original Motion did not carry.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Andrew K. Herlihy, Precinct 1, it was moved to instruct the Board of Selectmen, By-Law Committee and any other special committee to report to Subsequent Town Meeting about the possibility of moving the regular town election to the 1st Tuesday in April in every year, or the date of the Presidential Primary.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to place Article 3 on the table.

On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted that this Annual Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

148 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

No.		TOWN MEETING APPROVED Budget FY - 1999 $	Remarks and Source of Funding
A	**ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT**		
	ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT		
A1	Personal Services	91,068	
A2	Non-Personal Expenses	320	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	91,388	
B	**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**		
	CONSERVATION DIVISION		
B1	Personal Services	41,159	$940 weekend
B2	Non-Personal Expenses	0	fees
	ZONING BOARD		
B3	Personal Services	1,300	
B4	Non-Personal Expenses	0	
	HISTORICAL COMMISSION		
B5	Non-Personal Expenses	1,200	
	INSPECTION DIVISION		
B6	Personal Services	90,275	
B7	Non-Personal Expenses	0	
	GENERAL DEPARTMENT		
B8	Personal Services	89,190	
B9	Non-Personal Expenses	4,800	
	TOTAL		
	Personal Services	221,924	
	Non-Personal Expenses	6,000	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	227,924	
C	**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**		
	FINANCE COMMITTEE		
C1	Personal Services	1,260	
C2	Non-Personal Expenses	33,060	
C3	Reserve Fund	150,000	
	ASSESSMENT DIVISION		
C4	Personal Services	79,213	
C5	Non-Personal Expenses	9,300	
	TECHNOLOGY		
C7	Personal Services	74,400	
C8	Non-Personal Expenses	89,320	
	PERSONNEL		
C9	Personal Services	77,911	
C10	Non-Personal Expenses	35,900	
	GENERAL DEPARTMENT		
C11	Personal Services	221,170	
C12	Non-Personal Expenses	50,325	
	TOTAL		
	Personal Services	453,954	
	Non-Personal Expenses	367,905	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	821,859	

No.		TOWN MEETING APPROVED Budget FY - 1999 $	Remarks and Source of Funding
D	**GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**		
	SELECTMEN		
D1	Non-Personal Expenses	1,950	
	TOWN MANAGER		
D2	Personal Services	87,804	
D3	Non-Personal Expenses	5,750	
	LAW DIVISION		
D4	Town Counsel	109,777	
D5	Labor Counsel	40,000	
D6	Other Expenses	7,500	
	TOWN CLERK		
D7	Personal Services	42,227	
D8	Non-Personal Expenses	1,450	
	ELECTIONS/REGISTRATION		
D9	Personal Services	21,420	
D10	Non-Personal Expenses	16,125	
D11	CASUALTY INSURANCE	95,000	
	GENERAL DEPARTMENT		
D12	Personal Services	157,964	
D13	Non-Personal Expenses	61,900	
	TOTAL		
	Personal Services	309,415	
	Non-Personal Expenses	339,452	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	648,867	
E	**HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**		
	HEALTH DIV./WTS. & MEAS.		
E1	Personal Services	83,290	
E2	Non-Personal Expenses	46,141	
	ELDER SERVICES DIVISION		
E3	Personal Services	116,035	
E4	Non-Personal Expenses	20,146	
	VETERANS DIVISION		
E5	Personal Services	10,891	
E6	Non-Personal Expenses	560	
E7	Veterans Assistance	7,500	
	RECREATION DIVISION		
E8	Personal Services	46,330	
E9	Non-Personal Expenses	3,000	
	GENERAL DEPARTMENT		
E10	Personal Services	50,569	
E11	Non-Personal Expenses	2,000	
	TOTAL		
	Personal Services	307,115	
	Non-Personal Expenses	79,347	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	386,462	
F	**LIBRARY DEPARTMENT**		
	LIBRARY		
F1	Personal Services	586,290	
F2	Non-Personal Expenses	137,970	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	724,260	

No.		TOWN MEETING APPROVED Budget FY - 1999 $	Remarks and Source of Funding
G	**PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT**		
	POLICE		
G1	Personal Services	2,489,957	
G2	Non-Personal Expenses	224,125	
	ANIMAL CONTROL		
G3	Personal Services	14,104	
G4	Non-Personal Expenses	5,060	
	FIRE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
G5	Personal Services	2,318,275	
G6	Non-Personal Expenses	95,920	
	GENERAL (Dispatcher)		
G7	Personal Services	244,136	
G8	Non-Personal Expenses	23,389	
	TOTAL		
	Personal Services	5,066,472	
	Non-Personal Expenses	348,494	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	5,414,966	
H	**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**		
	ADMINISTRATION		
H1	Personal Services	80,329	
H2	Non-Personal Expenses	2,800	
	ENGINEERING		
H3	Personal Services	193,513	
H4	Non-Personal Expenses	13,955	
	HIGHWAY & EQUIP. MAINT.		
H5	Personal Services	571,383	
H6	Non-Personal Expenses	321,370	
	PARKS & FORESTRY		
H7	Personal Services	322,519	
H8	Non-Personal Expenses	56,660	
	SUB-TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT		
H11	Personal Services	1,167,744	
H12	Non-Personal Expenses	394,785	
	STREET LIGHTING		
H13	Non-Personal Expenses	210,740	
	RUBBISH COLL./DISPOSAL		
H14	Non-Personal Expenses	877,115	
H15	SNOW & ICE CONTROL	192,301	
	CEMETERY DIVISION		$72,761 from
H16	Personal Services	188,916	Bequest
H17	Non-Personal Expenses	30,395	$20,000 from Sale of lots
H18	EASEMENT		
H19	PUBLIC WAY		
	TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT		
	Personal Services	1,356,660	
	Non-Personal Expenses	1,705,336	
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	3,061,996	

No.		TOWN MEETING APPROVED Budget FY - 1999 $	Remarks and Source of Funding
	TOWN TOTALS		
	Personal Services	8,392,898	
	Non-Personal Expenses	2,984,824	
	TOWN TOTAL	11,377,722	
J	**SCHOOL**		
J1	School Department	22,909,000	
	BUILDING MAINTENANCE (Town)		
	Personal Services	84,472	
	Non-Personal Expenses	281,973	
J2	Northeast Regional Vocational School District Assessment	196,562	
	SCHOOL TOTAL	23,472,007	
K	**DEBT SERVICE & CAPITAL**		
K1	DEBT SERVICE	3,168,155 *	* $152,135 from sale of Real estate & $58,500 from Cem. Bequest
	CAPITAL PROJECTS		
K2	B-S-4 Sch. Alarms & Fire Prot.	0	
K3	B-S-5 Sch. Ceil. Tile Repl	0	
K4	B-S-9 Sch.Oil Tank Remov./Retro	40,000	
K5	B-S-12 Coolidge Renovations		
K6	B-S-13 Portable Classroom		
K7	B-S-14 High School Renovations		
K8	B-T-05 DPW Fuel sta. replace	60,000	
K9	B-T-07 DPW Gar. Mezzanine	0	
K10	B-T-9 Police Station Architect		
K11	B-T-11 Recon. Library Park. Lot		
K12	B-T-11 Town Bld. Improvements	50,000	
K13	B-T-13 Air Sys., T. Hall & Fire Sta.		
K14	B-T-12 Town Hall masonry repair	65,000	
K15	B-T-12 Window Repair/Replace	10,000	
K16	B-T-14 Library Renovations	27,000	
K17	CD-C-1 Purchase Open Space	0	
K18	CD-P-2 Downtown Park. Improv		
K19	FN-01 Data Processing	80,000	
K20	GS-04 Flexible Account	10,000	
K21	GS-06 - Community Improve. Prog		
K22	LB-1 Purchase Library Computers	19,300	
K23	LB-3 Purchase Library Furnishings		
K24	PS-F-1 Replace Fire Vehicle		
K25	PS-F-6 Replace Fire Dep't Pick-up Trk.		
K26	PS-F-11 Replace Fire Rescue Tool		
K27	PS-F-12 Replace Fire Dep't Radios		
K28	PS-F-15 Fire Breathing App		
K29	PS-P-1 Purchase Police Brethalyzer		
K30	PS-P-2 Purchase Police Radios	5,000	
K31	PS-P-3 Purchase Police Computers		
K32	PW-D-01 Drainage Improvements	15,000	
K33	PW-E-04,18,25 Hwy Equipment	287,000	
K34	PW-F-01 Shade Tree Nursery	0	
K35	PW-P-03 Playgrnd/Park Rehab	17,000	
K36	PW-P-12 School fences	0	
K37	PW-L-01 Landfill Sale/Closure		
K38	PW-R-02 Pavement Mgnt Plan	25,000	
K39	PW-R-02 Recon. Temple Street	0	
K40	PW-R-06 Sidewalk / Curb Const	50,000	
K41	PW-R-07 Aerial Topo Maps		
K42	PW-R-07 Roadway Const. (OSCO)		
K43	SDE-1 School Information Technolog	25,000	
K44	PW-R-13 Traffic Signal Imp		
	CAPITAL PROJECTS TOTAL	795,300	
	DEBT SERV & CAP. TOTAL	3,963,455	

No.		TOWN MEETING APPROVED Budget FY - 1999 $	Remarks and Source of Funding
L	**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**		
L1	Contributory Retirement	2,080,260 *	$320.00 from abatement surplus & $558,730 from free cash
L2	Non-Contrib. Retirement	83,550	
L3	Unemployment Benefits	21,600	
L4	Group Health/Life	2,633,379	
L5	Medicare / Social Security	316,475	
L6	Workers Compensation	146,989	
L7	Police / Fire Indemnification	21,000	
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TOTAL	5,303,253	
	STATE & COUNTY ASSESSMENTS		
	NON-ENTER. TOTALS	44,116,437	
M	**WATER FUND**		
M1	Personal Services	629,531	
	Non-Personal Expenses		
	Personnel Benefits	135,584	
	Other	1,001,584	
M2	Total Non-Personal Expenses	1,137,168	
	SUBTOTAL - OPERATIONS	1,766,699	
M3	Debt Service	36,788	
M4	Capital Outlay	630,400	$19,456 from water reserves
	SUBTOTAL-CAP & DEBT	667,188	
	TOTAL - WATER	2,433,887	
N	**SEWER FUND**		
N1	Personal Services	172,099	
	Non-Personal Expenses		
	Personnel Benefits	25,345	
	Other	2,880,082	
N2	Total Non-Personal Expenses	2,905,427	
	SUBTOTAL - OPERATIONS	3,077,526	
N3	Debt Service	39,114	
N4	Capital Outlay	114,700	
	SUBTOTAL-CAP & DEBT	153,814	
	TOTAL - SEWER	3,231,340	
	RECAP TOTALS	49,781,664	

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **September 14, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:40 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by the Reverend Jane Fadden of the First Congregational Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Richard W. Schubert, Precinct 7, requested "Point of Personal Privilege." Former Town Planner Jonathan Edwards was presented with a proclamation from the House of Representatives by Representative Paul Casey, honoring and thanking him for his 11 years as Town Planner.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 1 be tabled.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to affirm its vote for Line Item J2 – Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District in the amount of $196,562 of the FY 1999 Town of Reading Budget as adopted on April 30, 1998.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 2 be tabled.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to amend the "Town of Reading Massachusetts Ten Year Capital Improvements Program Fiscal Years 1999 through 2008" adopted April 16, 1998, by adopting the amended Capital Improvements Plan dated August 27, 1998, as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by Richard W. Schubert, Precinct 7, it was voted (and to dispense with further reading of the article) to amend the Reading Zoning By-Laws by amending Section 4.3.4. Adult Uses as follows:

1. Amend Paragraph 4.3.4.3. by deleting the word "may" and substituting therefor the word "shall"; and by deleting the phrase ", with such conditions as it deems appropriate for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare," in the second sentence thereof, so that Paragraph 4.3.4.3. shall read:

   "No Adult Use shall be allowed except by a Special Permit granted by the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall grant a Special Permit for an Adult Use in any district permitting such use only if the use is found by the Board of Appeals to comply with the following standards and procedures:"

2. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.a. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet" and substituting therefor the phrase "one hundred (100) feet", so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.a. shall read:

> "a. Within one hundred (100) feet of a boundary line of a residential zoning district;"

3. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.b. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet of a lot line of any lot containing" and substituting therefor the phrase "five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application,"; by deleting the phrase "park, playground"; and by adding at the end of the subparagraph the phrase "or within five hundred (500) feet of the lot line of a park or playground existing at the time of Special Permit application;" so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.b. shall read:

> "b. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application, a church, public school, private kindergarten or school, licensed day-care facility, public library, cultural facility, museum, elderly housing, assisted living facility, nursing home, or adult day-care facility; or within five hundred (500) feet of the lot line of a park or playground existing at the time of Special Permit application;"

4. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.c. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet of a lot line of any lot containing" and substituting therefor the phrase "five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application," so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.c. shall read:

> "c. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application, an establishment licensed under the provisions of Section 12 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws;"

5. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.d. by adding the phrase "structure containing any" between the word "any" and the word "other", so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.d. shall read:

> "d. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing any other Adult Use."

6. Delete subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. and renumber the remaining subsequent subparagraphs in Paragraph 4.3.4.3.2.

7. Amend renumbered subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. (former subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.c.) by deleting the second sentence thereof, so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. shall read:

"b. Parking and Loading: On-site parking and loading shall be provided in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 6.1. of these By-Laws as pertains to retail stores, offices and consumer service establishments."

2/3 vote required
136 voted in the affirmative
- 0 - voted in the negative

ARTICLE 5 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to accept a gift of the parcel of property currently known as and numbered 12-14 Brande Court consisting of 3,836 square feet of land and being shown as Lot 10 on Reading Board of Assessors' Rev. Jan. 1, 1972 Map 63 currently believed to be owned by John Lamond, Trustee of Merrimac Valley Holding Trust, for municipal public parking purposes, subject to the conditions of the gift that the Town remove the existing dwelling from the property and grade it so as to allow public parking by the end of 1998 and to provide a finished, paved municipal parking lot on the property for public use by the end of 1999; and that the Town appropriate the sum of $48,000 from State Aid, property taxes, and other non-property tax local receipts to pay for removing the dwelling from the property and constructing a public parking lot; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreements with private parties or state and federal agencies for financial and other assistance in connection with such gift, and to do all other acts and things necessary and proper for carrying out the purpose of this vote.

On motion by Daniel A. Ensminger, Precinct 7, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
103 voted in the affirmative
32 voted in the negative

Question moved.

Motion carried.

William J. Hughes, Jr., Precinct 7, requested "Point of Personal Privilege." William Hughes in cooperation with different town groups recommended that the ball field at Washington Park be named John Pacino Memorial Ball Field. John touched many Reading families both through recreation, athletics, and academia. An October 18 (1:00 p.m.) target date with Selectmen, State Representatives, Senator, and Reading schools are invited to attend. Mrs. Marjorie Pacino will speak on behalf of the Pacino family.

Town Manager Peter I. Hechenbleikner introduced the new Assistant Town Manager Russell Dean.

On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted that the Special Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die at 9:12 p.m.

147 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **November 9, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:40 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Paul C. Dustin, Precinct 5, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1 –George V. Hines presented the following Report of Progress of the Reading Business Park:

Reading Business Park Development Report:

For this report, I would like to present an overview of the process to date, a brief summary of the proposed projects and an outline of the process to follow. First, I would like to say that given the extent of interest in this project, and the overall quality of the proposals, we are closer than ever to this property truly becoming the Reading Business Park and an asset rather than a liability. Lessons learned from the previous process and suggestions made during Town Meeting assisted in achieving progress toward a positive outcome of this project. While some of the proposals are more speculative than others, and the return to the Town varies, the committee, staff and consultant were impressed with the proposals many of which could have resulted in a positive outcome for the Town. I should also acknowledge the work of Assistant Town Manager Russell Dean, who was assigned as the Project Manager for the Town, and all the other Town staff and the Advisory Committee that consisted of:

Robert Nordstrand, Board of Assessors and R.E. Professional
David Nugent, Board of Assessors and R.E. Professional
John Coote, Zoning Board of Appeals
Richard MacDonald, Finance Committee, Town Meeting Member
Mike Flammia, Community Planning and Development Commission
Robert Lalechuer, Citizen at Large and Financial Professional
Donald Stroeble, Citizen at Large and R.E. Professional
Neil Sullivan, Citizen at Large and Construction Professional

I served as the BOS representative and was appointed Chairman by the Board. Jeff Stuart, Citizen at Large and R.E. Professional, Dave Nugent, Bob Nordstrand, Don Stroeble and I served as an advisory committee to the Town Manager on the selection of a R.E. Consultant. The ultimate designation of Grubb & Ellis as our Real Estate Consultant under very favorable terms proved to be an excellent decision as their assistance every step of the way including their presence at all meetings was very valuable.

The major criteria developed by the committee with the guidance of Project Manager Russ Dean included: financial factors--town such as purchase price, cost to Town, and long-term financial impact; economic development factors such as impact on economic and employment base and impact on tax base; financial factors such as financing ability, marketing ability and management ability; regulatory factors, compliance with State and local regulations and ability to work with State and local officials; experience factors such as landfill closure and experience with similar projects; environmental impacts such as traffic, water use, noise, wastewater disposal and environmental benefits; personnel factors including the experience of team members and their experience working together; maintenance factors such as the ability to sustain the viability of the project and physically maintain the property, and special factors such as understanding of the site and public issues and willingness to creatively deviate from previous prototypes.

A timeline (attached as an exhibit) of the activities to date will be on the overhead as I go through it. The ten proposals received were:

3JMA,LLC

110 units of over 55 senior residential housing units and 300,000 sq. ft. of office space over structured parking. A purchase price of $1.00 with the developer assuming the cost of landfill closure.

Locke/Cashman/Thermo Associates

Mixed use development with two 150 room hotels and 300,000 sq. ft. of office Development. A purchase price of $1.00 with the developer assuming the cost of landfill closure.

Lincoln Property Company

A mixed use development proposal consisting of 300 luxury rental apartments, A 200 room hotel and 150,000 sq. ft. of first class office space. A purchase price of $7,650,000 from which the cost of closing the landfill would be deducted.

Carpenter & Company

A proposal for an entertainment/retail complex consisting of a theater restaurant, and retail focused on specialty foods and service/entertainment businesses. A land lease proposal with a $3,000,000 payment toward landfill closure, a subsequent payment of $1,000,000 for other Town projects and annual lease payments.

Corporex Development

A mixed use development including 260,000 sq. ft. of first class office, a full service Hilton Hotel and 120,000 sq. ft. country club. The proposal calls for a 99 year land lease and developer assuming financial responsibility for landfill closure.

Leach Family Holdings, Inc.

A proposal for a mixed use development consisting of 330,000 sq. ft. of office development, a hotel and 150,000 sq. ft. of retail mass marketing space. A proposed purchase price of $10,000,000 minus the developers

cost of landfill closure plus $1,000,000 of onsite improvements and $3,000,000 of offsite improvements.

The Beal Companies, LLP

A 44 unit residential apartment complex. A $1,000,000 purchase of the southern 16 acres for the apartment buildings and a 99 year untaxed ground lease of the northern 17 acres for the development of recreation facilities but with the retention of development rights and the cost of the landfill closure borne by the developer.

Dickinson Development #1

A mixed use development with a 132,000 sq. ft. Home Depot, a 14 screen stadium seating cinema, a 107 room hotel, an Applebee's Restaurant and 126,000 sq. ft. of office building. The developer is proposing to assume landfill closure costs, make a $2,000,000 payment upon Certificate of Occupancy for the first completed building, and $1,000,000 payment upon Certificate of Occupancy of the office building.

Dickinson Development #2

The same proposal as above without Home Depot, with a small retail component and no payments of cash to the Town.

Edward Callan

The development of 600,000 sq. ft. of office space or 5000,000 sq. ft. of office and a 225 room hotel. A proposed acquisition cost of $7,000,000 from which the Town would pay the cost of landfill closure.

As a result of a preliminary screening of the ten proposals, three were eliminated: Beal Companies LLP, Carpenter & Company and Dickinson #2. The remaining seven were interviewed, and a subsequent decision meeting resulted in the recommendation to refer three proposals to the Board of Selectmen: Corporex Development, Lincoln Properties and Dickinson Development.

The remaining process preliminarily developed for the Board of Selectmen to be adopted at tomorrow night's meeting will be an interview meeting currently scheduled for November 17th, a public input session which Town Meeting Members are encouraged to attend. November 19th and a meeting to designate a developer on December 1st.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report, and I look forward to making a final report which will be on the achievement of a goal which has been many years in the making but, hopefully, fewer years in implementation.

READING BUSINESS PARK TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
May 11, 1998	✓ Developer RFP issued
May 18, 1998	✓ Marketing consultant RFP advertised
May 26, 1998	✓ Board of Selectmen establish Business Park Advisory Committee & Policy
June 18, 1998	✓ Grubb & Ellis selected as marketing consultants
July 16, 1998	✓ Pre-bid meeting and site tour #1
July 30, 1998	✓ Town receives questions from bidders
August 14, 1998	✓ Town issues written response to questions
September 10, 1998	✓ Pre-bid meeting and site tour #2
September 16, 1998	✓ Advisory Committee meets; reviews RFP evaluation criteria
September 24, 1998	✓ Ten proposals received and opened; RBPAC meets and receives bid summaries
October 1, 1998	✓ RBPAC meets; performs initial evaluation reducing number of proposals to seven
October 15, 1998	✓ RBPAC meets; interviews 4 developers
October 21, 1998	✓ RBPAC meets: interviews 3 developers
October 28, 1998	✓ Ratings compiled by RBPAC members; committee meets and discusses findings; three proposals forwarded to Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 1 – Philip B. Pacino, Chairman of the Reading Municipal Light Board, presented the following Annual Report:

Reading Municipal Light Board Report:

This is the Annual Report of the Reading Municipal Light Commission or as its commonly known "The World according to your Local Utility." I am Phil Pacino, the Chairman of the Commission.

It is with pride that the Commission reports to the Reading Town Meeting that the Reading Municipal Light Department continues to operate effectively. The power that the Department is delivering to its customers has been at a reliable level. The rates the Department charges its customers continues to be the third lowest in the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts among all public and private utility companies. The rates also continue to be lower than the rates charged by the investor owned utilities even after the required rate reduction put in place by the State legislation on restructuring.

The biggest event to occur in the last year that will effect the RMLD for this year and many years to come is the deregulation of the utility industry passed by the State Legislature late in 1997. The term deregulation is a misnomer. What really is happening to the Massachusetts utility industry is a restructuring of the industry. With last week's vote not to repeal the legislation, restructuring is here to stay.

The intent of the State legislation was to open up the utility industry to competition through competitive forces in an effort to reduce the rates customers pay for electricity. The RMLD and all other municipal utilities in the Commonwealth under the legislation are exempt as long as the municipal only operates in its existing service area. Thus, the RMLD is not subject to the rules of the restructuring legislation unless it elects to supply power to any customers not presently in the service area of Reading, North Reading, Wilmington and our half of Lynnfield.

Earlier this year, the Commission held public hearings in each of the four towns serviced by the RMLD to explain restructuring and to solicit input from the RMLD customers. The Department has also commissioned customer surveys on restructuring. As a result of these inputs, the Commission found that there is not a great demand from its customers at present for the RMLD to change all of its operations and evolve into a different type of utility. Thus, the Commission has taken the position that it will continue to monitor input from its customers and also developments in the industry, and take whatever steps it will need to take to remain an effective and efficient utility.

That all being said, there were three actions the Commission took in the last year as a result of restructuring.

The first action was that the Commission instructed the Department to study and to report back to the Commission on the impact of implementing giving the present customers of the RMLD a choice of various rates equivalent to these a competitor in the RMLD service area would offer.

The second action is that the Board is presently looking to allow its commercial and industrial customers to go on a budget billing system similar to what residential customers now have available to them.

The third action is the formal launching of Energy New England. Energy New England is a collaborative of the light departments of Reading, Braintree and Taunton plus Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative. ENE is a separate legal entity. Its purpose is to create greater efficiencies and economic savings by way of greater combined operations. These savings will be passed onto the customers of the RMLD. ENE will reduce any possible stranded cost risks the RMLD has on its power contracts, and will provide the RMLD with greater flexibility that could allow the RMLD to compete for larger customers under the restructured environment.

Energy New England has been a success to date. Since its birth in mid-1998, it has in place major contracts with 6 other municipal utilities, and is at the present time looking for a major partner to facilitate and enhance its growth. ENE has been so successful that several states outside Massachusetts have or are looking to include in their deregulation legislation provisions for an ENE type entity.

One of the issues the Commission has looked at in the past year as part of restructuring has been new businesses the RMLD can go into. The RMLD is a wires company and that is what we do best, however, we have talked about the possibility of going into Cable TV, Internet Services, phone services, utility billing services and appliance services. Customer surveys have indicated not a great demand for these services at present by the RMLD. Thus, the Commission has taken the position that, since the customers are not demanding these new services, the new services may be something the RMLD would need to learn to do well, and that the new services may be something that ENE is more appropriate to do, any new services will be put on hold for the present time and reviewed at a future date.

Another issue the Commission dealt with in the past year was the retirement classification of the General Manager and Assistant Managers. The Commission felt the position taken by the Retirement Board would hurt the RMLD as an organization and thus fully challenged that position.

As a commitment to keep the system operating properly, the Commission has authorized the Department to proceed with a new substation in North Reading. This substation will be in addition to the Gaw substation on Causeway Street here in Reading. The substation is needed because of the expansion of power demands in the North Reading and Wilmington areas combined with the fact that the Gaw substation is at its maximum capacity. At this Thursday's Town Meeting, this body will be asked to swap property presently owned by the RMLD for property owned by the Town of North Reading. This swap will allow the Department to meet its requirement of having the substation in place by the Summer of the year 1999, and will address the concerns presented by the residents and Town officials of North Reading.

The final item under this report is the return on investment payment the RMLD makes to the Town of Reading. The Commission facilitated the forming of an Advisory Committee consisting of two Commission Members, two Citizen Advisory Board Members and a member of the Reading Board of Selectmen. This Advisory Committee met and came back to the Commission, the CAB and the Reading Selectmen with the recommendation that there be established a benchmark payment of $1,560,414 for calendar year 1998, and that subsequent years payments will be changed by the CPI for the previous year, and that the Commission or the CAB may ask the Advisory Committee to convene to review the payment at any time. This recommendation was adopted by all parties.

The Commission in the past year may have had highly publicized differences between its members but as a Commission, it looks to do what is best for the RMLD stakeholders which are the RMLD customers, the RMLD owners which is the Town of Reading and the RMLD employees. The Commission is entrusted with decisions that, if proven to be inaccurate, could be costly to the utility and even to the Town of Reading. Thus, it has always taken the view that it must use a business approach to all decisions and decide in favor of its stakeholders.

With restructuring now firmly in place, it is an exciting time to be in the electric utility business. The future holds opportunities. It is the intent of the Commission to take advantage of these opportunities and thus enhance the RMLD.

ARTICLE 1 – Paul C. Dustin, Chairman of the Police Station Building Committee, presented the following Report of Progress:

The Police Station Building Committee Report:

The Police Station Building Committee presents this report to Town Meeting to inform you of our progress. I will keep my remarks brief as we have a fair amount of business before this Town Meeting, and the award of the contract for the building of the Town's new Police Station has already been covered in the Committee's meetings with the Selectmen and by the local newspapers. On the screen, in front of you, is a summary of the cost figures, the options that were considered by the Committee and our recommendation that was made to the Selectmen.

Bids were received from eleven general contractors and the Committee selected the bid from G & R Construction, Inc. for the net amount of $3,679,299 which includes the add alternative #1 for the basement expansion space. You will note that this is some $101,299 above the construction budget of $3,578,000. At this point, the Committee considered the three options that you see listed:

- #1 – Reduce the working contingency to stay within the budget;
- #2 – Seek additional funding from Town Meeting for the needed balance;
- #3 – Modify the exterior of the building to reduce cost and rebid the project. .

The third option was quickly disposed of since the message has been clear from the start of our discussions with the Town and the Selectmen: The appearance of the building was paramount – we don't want it to look like a fortress. Additionally, this was not considered feasible since additional redesign costs would have been involved, and there was no guarantee that the rebids would be lower than we have now.

Based upon observations made at the site during installation of drainage by the Town's DPW, it seems reasonable that we will not experience difficulty in the site preparation and foundation work. If this turns out to be the case, then we expect that the reduced working contingency will be sufficient. As explained by our architect, there are three general causes contributing to cost overruns: Unforeseen obstacles, changes by the owner during construction, and design changes made necessary by incomplete drawings and/or specifications. Of the first category, the most likely unforeseen problems would arise with the foundation and this I have mentioned. Effective management by our Project Manager, Daedalus, coupled with the extensive design input from the Police, Town Officials, the Building Committee and citizens should control the second. Finally, with the design having been extensively reviewed by the Project Manager as well as the architect, we feel confident that the construction documentation should adequately do the job.

Nevertheless, we are aware that the contingency available is 1.2%, considerably below the planned figure of 4%. Our architect has stressed his nervousness over this to the Committee, and we have listened to him. We also recognize that contingencies are just that: money set aside that may or may not be needed depending upon conditions. Rather than ask for additional funding now, and perhaps not use it, the Committee chose to proceed as we are doing and to return to Town Meeting in the Spring if the need should arise. We expect to know within the first 90 days of construction, which will be the foundation work, whether we have a problem or not. The Committee, our Architect (Donham & Sweeney) and Project Manager (Daedalus) agree with this approach. The Selectmen have also endorsed it.

In closing, let me repeat our recommendation as noted on the overhead. The Committee's view at this point is that we should proceed with the Station as designed, and with the expansion space under the community and training room. We are preparing a building to last for the next half century and to underbuild at this point we feel would be unwise. This was our recommendation to the Selectmen, and it is the basis of the contract as awarded.

I am pleased to say that the Selectmen accepted our recommendation of Option #1. The construction company has been notified of the award, and will meet with the Building Committee and Selectmen tomorrow night, with groundbreaking shortly to occur. With this contract, we are on schedule and look forward to the opening of the Town's new Police Station by the end of next year in time for the new millennium.

Police Station Building Committee
Construction Cost and Budget Impact

Amount		Comment
$ 3,669,824	Base bid	Bid As Presented - G & R Constr. Inc
($ 21,525)		Reductions In Bid To The Favor Of The Town
$ 3,648,229		Net Bid
$ 31,000	Add Alternate #1	Basement Expansion Room
$ 3,679, 299		Contract Amount
$ 3,578,000		Construction Budget
($ 101,299)	Shortfall	Constr. Budget to Contract Amount
$143,120	Budget Contingency	4% Of Construction Estimate Of $ 3,578,000
$ 41,821	Working Contingency	This is 1.2 % of Construction Budget

Options

Option	Impact
1. Stay within $3,578,000 figure by reducing the working contingency	Maintains present TM funding with reasonable risk to the project
2. Seek town meeting increase in funding of $101,299 at November Subsequent TM	Could be necessary later if unforeseen problems arise during foundation work
3. Stay within $3,578,000 figure by terminating the elevator tower in a less attractive roof structure.	These would eliminate much of the enhanced appearance that was desired by citizen response to the preliminary design.
Eliminate the cast concrete decorative trim	Would need to revise the plans and go out for rebid. Redesign would entail additional cost and we are not sure that we would have a net positive effect on the rebid.

Recommendation

Proceed with option #1. The design and drawings are sufficiently detailed so that we do not anticipate any significant construction problems and therefore the working contingency should be sufficient. On the other hand the consensus is that within 90 days we would know if we have a problem(s) with the excavation and foundation work. If that should arise we would come back to the annual (Spring '99) TM for any necessary increased funding.

The committee's view at this point is that we should proceed with the design as presented, and with the expansion space under the community and training room. We are preparing a building to last for the next half century and to underbuild at this point we feel would be unwise. This was our recommendation to the Selectmen, and is the basis of the contract as awarded.

ARTICLE 1 – Dr. Harry Harutunian presented the following Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award:

1998 Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award for Exemplary Teaching Science Initiatives: Providing the Next Step at the Joshua Eaton Elementary School

Last Fall, Dennis Richards, Associate Superintendent for Reading Public Schools, came before Town Meeting to announce that the Birch Meadow Elementary School would receive the 1997 Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award for exemplary teaching, and to explain the way the award would celebrate exemplary teaching at Birch Meadow School.

Last Spring, Principal Richard Davidson and Media Specialist Nancy Anthony came before Town Meeting to receive the award plaque publicly, and to describe how their Technology 2000 project was used by the school to support teaching and benefit the students at the school.

This year, the 1998 Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award for exemplary teaching will support outstanding teaching at the Joshua Eaton Elementary School. Teachers at Joshua Eaton have developed a proposal for teaching that takes advantage of the elementary science program to boost student reading. They will implement their proposal this year and report to Town Meeting in the Spring on the results of their initiative.

Joshua Eaton, like other schools in the district, has been fortunate to have Town Meeting support for improving science instruction. While they recognize the need to strive toward fully implementing the science resources they now possess, Joshua Eaton teachers are also mindful of the need to be looking ahead for new ways of incorporating good literature into their science units. To this end, they will be using the 1998 Berger Award funds to purchase fiction and non-fiction books that will enable them to augment science instructions with good literature.

During the last year and a half in Reading, the elementary science program has been one target for improvement. In an effort to align Reading with the State curriculum learning standards described in documents called the Frameworks, new science units have been introduced in Grades 1 through 5. While these units are wonderful resources and provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to learn, curiosity leads many students to the school library seeking more information. To aid in their further exploration of science concepts, Joshua Eaton will be using the 1998 Arnold and Dorothy Berger Award to purchase books for the school library.

Representatives from each grade level have met with their colleagues and developed lists of books which will further the understanding of science concepts presented in the units used in each grade. Teacher's manuals that accompany the science units have extensive bibliographies and many titles come from these lists. Other titles come from independent research teachers have done and lists we have received from other school districts.

I hope that Arnold and Dorothy Berger would be proud of this proposal for exemplary teaching that is being supported by their generous award.

The School Department will return in the Spring with representatives from Joshua Eaton to report to Town Meeting on the results of their project.

ARTICLE 1 – Dr. Harry Harutunian presented the following Report of the State of the Schools:

Report of the State of the Schools by Superintendent of Schools:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I stand before you this evening and speak to you about the outstanding accomplishments that our teachers, administrators, parents and most of all our students have achieved this past year in the Reading Public Schools.

Last fall, the Reading School Department began the process of developing a comprehensive strategic plan. 102 members of a strategic planning committee met in the fall of 1997 and over 450 parents, teachers, administrators and community members participated in the strategic planning process. Several weeks ago, the Reading School Committee, with a unanimous vote, approved a strategic plan that includes this mission statement:

(Show Slide #1)

The mission of the Reading Public Schools is to educate, challenge and encourage all students in the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

The strategic plan also includes a vision statement, belief statement and five very important goals. We would like to thank all those who participated in this process.

(Show Slide #2)

As many of you know, we have been experiencing a severe enrollment and space problem in our elementary schools. Our total enrollment in September 1994, four short years ago, was 3,800 students. This Fall, we opened school with 4,100 students, an increase of more than 340 students over the last four years.

(Show Slide #3)

Last year, a demographic study was done of the Reading community and the consultant estimated that in 1997 Reading would end the year with 314 births. In fact, almost 350 children were born to Reading residents this past year. This year, the birth rate continues to parallel last year's birth rate that was the largest number of births in more than two decades.

In several weeks, the School Building Committee, with the full support of the Reading School Committee, will be asking Town Meeting for funding for a new elementary school at Dividence Road. The School Building Committee and the School Committee have a limited number of options because we can do very little at the four present elementary schools.

Mission
For the Reading Public Schools
October 1998

The Mission of the Reading Public Schools is to educate, challenge, and encourage all students in the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Approved by the
Reading School Committee
October, 1998

Recommended Goals
For the Reading Public Schools
October 1998

- Set high expectations for all students using the Massachusetts Common Core of Learning as the minimum benchmark for setting standards.

- Ensure that individual students are challenged as their needs and talents are addressed.

- Provide a learning environment for student success with sufficient staff and well-maintained and equipped facilities to address the issues of changing curriculum, growing enrollments, class size, redistricting, and building renovation/construction.

- Provide the modern equipment, materials, and staff development needed to present a challenging state-of-the art education.

- Educate parents and community members about curriculum development, assessments, goals, and fiscal needs of our school system.

Approved by the
Reading School Committee
October, 1998

READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 1 ENROLLMENT
1994-1998

	ELEMENTARY (K-5)	MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)	HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)	SPECIAL EDUCATION	TOTALS
October 1, 1994	1,966	839	1,005	33	3,843
October 1, 1995	2,018	878	1,013	48	3,957
October 1, 1996	2,050	920	1,023	53	4,052
October 1, 1997	2,088	973	1,034	24	4,119
October 1, 1998	2,047	1,043	1,071	23	4,184
				INCREASE FROM 1994-1998	**+341**

The State has notified us that they will not allow any additional space at the Eaton School, the Birch Meadow School and for the most part the Killam School. This leaves only the Barrows School for expansion. Unfortunately, because the Barrows site is small, it can only accommodate a small addition. The School Building Committee will be holding a special meeting on Saturday, December 5th for Town Meeting Members to hear a presentation from the School Building Committee.

In March, Town Meeting approved a $9 million renovation and expansion of the Coolidge Middle School, space that will desperately be needed in the next few years to handle the increased number of elementary students as they move through our secondary schools.

Regarding the High School, we are presently waiting to receive a feasibility report on whether a new school or a renovated school will serve the Reading community best in the future. Currently, the data being collected for that report appears to indicate we need to renovate this building. The report will be out in late December or early January.

In the area of technology and curriculum, we have moved forward in several ways. Some examples are:

- This past year, the school district's technology plan was approved by the Department of Education;
- We conducted numerous training programs in technology and curriculum Development;
- Implemented the second phase of a new science program in our elementary schools;
- Expanded our foreign language program in Grade 7;
- Put Local Area Networks at Reading Memorial High School, Eaton School and Killam elementary schools; and
- We now have almost all 1,100 Reading High School students taking 6 of 7 classes a day with a closed campus.

In the area of capital improvement, the April 1997 Town Meeting allocated $3.6 million for improvements to the schools. We have taken $2.5 million for Reading Memorial High School and

- Installed a new boiler, new heating system and computer;
- Installed 72 new univents;
- Painted lavatories and corridors;
- Installed new doors at the school and the field house;
- Removed asbestos;
- Installed new chemistry lab and upgraded 3 physical science labs.

We have taken the $800,000 for the Birch Meadow School and

- Installed a new boiler system;
- Painted classrooms;
- Repaired classroom floors;
- Installed a new roof;
- Installed new lighting.

We have taken the $350,000 at Joshua Eaton and

- Installed a new roof on the gym and cafeteria;
- Installed new lighting in the classrooms and lavatories;
- Replaced old windows;
- Installed new flooring in classrooms, gym and stage.

Despite these expenditures and many other needs this past fiscal year, the Reading School Department returned more than $31,000 of the money Town Meeting allocated to offset increased special education costs last year. This is the third year in a row that the School Department has returned money to the Town of Reading.

Our financial picture, however, leaves room for improvement given the latest state statistics that came out several weeks ago. They unfortunately show that Reading's per pupil allocation went from $570 below the state average in FY 95 to $726 below the state average in FY 96 -- a drop of $156 per pupil below the state average. We desperately need your continued support of our budget so that we can continue to offer a quality education for all of Reading students.

The School Department has worked closely with the Town on a pilot project whereby the School Department has assumed responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of all 14 Town buildings. This is another example of the collaboration that the School Committee, the Selectmen and the Finance Committee continue to have and will continue to build on for our future. The community of Reading benefits from the lack of duplication of services in the areas of maintenance, cleaning, finance and many other areas.

We are also proud of some of the accomplishments of our individual schools:

Reading Memorial High School

- 92% of last year's graduating students are pursuing post secondary education;
- 57 out of 235 went to highly competitive schools;
- 15 Ivy and small Ivy League colleges;
- State Champions in drama and band;
- Model United Nations State Champions;
- All varsity athletic teams last year had a grade point average of over 3.0.

Coolidge Middle School's Science Olympiad Team placed first in the State and 21st in the country.

Parker Middle School's student newspaper, *The Quill*, received two New England Scholastic Press Association Journalism Awards.

This past year has been a very exciting and busy year for the Reading Public Schools. We appreciate the support, the hard work and the dedication of our teachers, administrators and parents but most of all we appreciate the commitment of our students. We all recognize that the greatest resource we have here in Reading is our young people.

On behalf of the School Committee, its faculties, staff and administration, I would like to thank Town Meeting and the Reading community for their continued support of the Reading Public Schools.

ARTICLE 1 – Russell T. Graham, Chairman of the School Building Committee presented the following Report of Progress:

Reading School Building Committee Report:

This is a report of progress from the School Building Committee accompanied by a preview of coming attractions.

Following your vote to renovate and add to the Coolidge Middle School, RFP's were issued, bids were received and in accordance with State law, the qualified low bidder was awarded the contract by the Reading School Committee. Excavation of the site has begun and footings and foundation work will soon begin.

The Middle School situation having been addressed, the School Building Committee, as it had promised Town Meeting, turned immediately to the elementary crunch already affecting the system. A feasibility study having been approved by you, an RFP for an architect to carry out that study was issued. From those responding, a subcommittee, using criteria and standards previously established, picked four of the respondents for interview by the full committee. The committee added another of the respondents who came close to the others in the match of criteria. A wise move, as it turned out, since one of the originals had to drop out because it had too much work.

After a series of interviews, the School Building Committee with input from the superintendent and the four elementary principals unanimously chose Earl Flansburgh Associates to carry out the study. Using the enrollment projects from NESDEC, previously reported to Town Meeting, a series of options were explored to solve the problem.

One would have added significant space to three of the present elementary schools, Birch Meadow being already saturated bringing them up to a size equal to our Middle School and creating an elementary student body of such a size as to create discomfort to the

School Committee, administration and, of course, the parents. The need to bring our core facilities for art, music gyms and libraries (already sorely inadequate) up to satisfy the increased student body and conform to State educational standards drove the cost to a significant sum – in other words, paying more for an end result not necessarily in conformance with educational issues. Further, in a preliminary meeting with the Department of Education, it was made clear that further encroachment on the land at Killam was not acceptable, and that further work on the Joshua Eaton School would not be entertained. Given the inherent negatives coupled with this reaction from those who must approve and who will fund two thirds of the project, this option was effectively removed from the table.

All other options called for the building of a new school on land already owned by the Town in the Dividence Road area, and for additions to already existing schools or the building of a much larger school.

The option unanimously chosen by the School Building Committee and unanimously endorsed by the School Committee for presentation to Town Meeting next month, calls for a new school at the Dividence Road site, and for additions and renovations to be made to the Barrows School.

With apologies, the School Building Committee has asked that on November 17th, the Board of Selectmen open and close a Warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on December 7, 1998 in order to present to you this recommendation. We found it impossible to carry out the process, bring the results to open meetings, and reach out to the community with pertinent information prior to this Subsequent Town Meeting. But the pressure of enrollment at the elementary level is so great that we feel it absolutely critical to meet the annual deadline for submission of plans by June 1, 1999 in order to make that years list of projects. To lose a year would be disastrous for many reasons. In addition, the Department of Education has moved the date for preliminary discussion and review of plans to December 31st of the year prior to submission leaving little time to waste.

At that Special Town Meeting, the need will be clearly spelled out. A thought to ponder in that regard is that the birth rate in Reading since the NESDEC study is, in fact, higher than those used in the projection. We really don't know what is happening but it might be appropriate for Ted McIntire to carry out a study to see if there is something in the water. At that Special Town Meeting, the proposed solution and the reasons for it being chosen will be presented and, finally the tough part, the finances of doing it will be extensively covered. That part, not surprisingly, is still being worked on but let there be no doubt it will not be easy.

Relative to finances, this project because of the new school aspect has consequence to the operating budget of the School Department now and in the future. That effect on budget not being the baliwick of the School Building Committee will be covered in the presentation by the School Committee and/or administration. Town Meeting be assured

will be fully apprised of the capital and operating consequences of the decision it will be asked to make.

During the next few weeks, a number of meetings will be held at each of the elementary schools to discuss and present this plan. All are, of course, invited to attend any or all of these meetings. The schedule for the school meetings is:

November 17 at 8:00 - Barrows School
November 23 at 8:00 - Joshua Eaton School
November 24 at 8:00 - Killam School
December 1 at 8:00 - Birch Meadow School

In addition, a meeting with the neighbors of the Dividence Road area has been scheduled at the Parker Middle School at 7:30 on November 18th and Saturday, December 5th. An all day session specifically for Town Meeting Members will be held at the Parker Middle School. In addition, meetings must be held with Town Boards and Committees, most importantly, with the Capital Committee and the Finance Committee.

We have much to do and little time to do it but the need is urgent and the consequences of inaction too serious to the education of our children for us not to bring to you the magnitude of the problem and a proposed solution to that problem.

We look forward to seeing you in the weeks ahead and especially on December 7th.

ARTICLE 1 - On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 1 be tabled.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to move that the Town Counsel rule if a member of the Finance Committee can continue to serve on said committee if he is appointed to a task force as per Section 3.4.6 of the Town of Reading Bylaws.

Town Counsel made his ruling.

Motion withdrawn.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 2 be tabled.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend the "Town of Reading, Massachusetts Ten Year Capital Improvements Program Fiscal Years 1999 through 2008, printed 22 Oct. 98", as provided in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

TOWN OF READING MASSACHUSETTS
TEN YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2008
PRINTED 22-OCT-98

OJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
S-09	REMOVE/REPLACE OIL	40.0 U		40.0 A			40.0 A	50.0 A				170.0
B-S-14	RMHS RENOVATION								30000. CO			30000.0
B-S-15	KILLAM RENOVATION				3000.0 D							3000.0
B-S-17	ELEMENTARY BUILDING	300.0 D	7390.0 D									7690.0
B-S-18	PARKER LAND ACQ	46.0 S										46.0
		386.0	7390.0	40.0	3000.0		40.0	50.0	30000.			40906.0
B-T-04	DPW MAINT. EXPANSIO		40.0 A	500.0 D								540.0
B-T-05	DPW FUEL REPLACEMEN	84.0 A										84.0
B-T-07	DPW GAR. MEZZANINE	10.0 U										10.0
B-T-08	ROOF REPAIRS							30.0 A				30.0
B-T-11	TOWN FACILITY MAINT	50.0 A	80.0 A	35.0 A	12.0 A	75.0 A	15.0 A	50.0 A	17.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	394.0
B-T-12	TOWN HALL MASONRY W	65.0 A										65.0
B-T-12	WINDOW REPAIR/REPLA	10.0 A	10.0 A	25.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	115.0
B-T-14	LIBRARY RENOVATIONS	27.0 A										27.0
		246.0	130.0	560.0	22.0	85.0	25.0	90.0	27.0	40.0	40.0	1265.0
CD- -01	ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE	40.0 U		40.0 A		40.0 A		40.0 R		40.0 R		200.0
CD- -01	ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE/			60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		240.0
CD- -02	PRESERVE LOBS POUND											
CD- -02	PRESERVE LOBS POUND											
		40.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		440.0
FN- -01	REPL DATA PROC EQ-A	80.0 A	64.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	528.0
FN- -01	REPL DATA PROC EQ-E	20.0 E	16.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	132.0
SUBTOTAL	FINANCE	100.0	80.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	660.0
GS- -04	FLEXIBLE ACCOUNT	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	100.0
GS- -05	OPTICAL IMAGING SYS		41.0 A									41.0
GS- -06	NEIGHBORHOOD IMP. P	48.0 R	48.0 R	48.0 R	48.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	63.0 R	530.0
		58.0	99.0	58.0	58.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	73.0	671.0
HS- -01	ELDER SERVICES VAN				58.0 A						61.0 A	119.0
					58.0						61.0	119.0
LB- -01	LIBRARY COMPUTERS	19.3 A		51.8 A	6.5 A		7.1 A	24.2 A		6.0 A		114.9
LB- -02	CIRCULATION SYSTEM		21.5 A									21.5
LB- -03	LIBRARY FURNISHINGS		10.5 A	5.4 A		5.6 A		5.9 A		6.2 A		33.6
LB- -03	MATERIALS FLOW SYST		50.0 A									50.0
LB- -04	CIRCULATION DESK		10.5 A									10.5

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
SUBTOTAL	LIBRARY	19.3	92.5	57.2	6.5	5.6	7.1	30.1		12.2		230.5
PS-F-07	REPLACE FIRE PUMPER			261.6 A								261.6
PS-F-08	REPLACE AMBULANCE			110.7 A					142.4 A			253.1
PS-F-10	REPLACE CHIEF'S VEH					33.0 A						33.0
PS-F-15	PURCH SKID PUMP UNI					9.3 A						9.3
PS-F-17	REPLACE FIRE HOSE					10.7 A						10.7
PS-F-18	REHAB ENGINE 3		16.8 A									16.8
SUBTOTAL	FIRE		16.8	372.3		53.0			142.4			584.5
PS-P-02	REPLACE RADIO EQUIP	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	50.0
PS-P-03	POLICE COMPUTERS		8.8 A			25.0 A						33.8
SUBTOTAL	POLICE	5.0	13.8	5.0	5.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	83.8
PW-C-07	CEMETERY RD RECONST		10.0 A									10.0
SUBTOTAL	CEMETERY		10.0									10.0
PW-D-01	ABERJONA DRAINAGE I									206.0 A	50.0 A	256.0
PW-D-01	GEN. DRAIN. IMP.	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	255.0
PW-D-03	SAUGUS RIV. DRAINAG	750.0 D		140.0 A		112.0 A		300.0 A				1302.0
		765.0	15.0	155.0	30.0	142.0	30.0	330.0	30.0	236.0	80.0	1813.0
PW-E-01	REPLACE LOADERS				30.0 A	35.0 A	56.0 A	135.0 A	135.0 A	98.0 A	85.0 A	574.0
PW-E-04	REPLACE DUMP TRUCKS	41.0 A	134.0 A	68.0 A	68.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	731.0
PW-E-05	REPLACE PICKUP TRUC			57.0 A					79.0 A			136.0
PW-E-10	REPLACE SNOW PLOWS		12.6 A	13.0 A	13.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	16.0 A	16.0 A		115.6
PW-E-11	REPLACE MOWERS		70.0 A		31.0 A							101.0
PW-E-12	REPLACE COMPRESSOR		15.0 A									15.0
PW-E-13	REPLACE TRAILER									8.0 A		8.0
PW-E-16	REPLACE SANDERS				14.0 A							14.0
PW-E-17	REPLACE GRADER										100.0 A	100.0
PW-E-18	REPLACE SNOWBLOWER	201.0 A										201.0
PW-E-19	REPLACE BUCKET TRUC						90.0 A					90.0
PW-E-20	REPLACE CHIPPER						25.0 A					25.0
PW-E-21	REPLACE ROLLER			14.0 A						35.0 A		49.0
PW-E-24	REPLACE SWEEPER				135.0 A							135.0
PW-E-25	REPLACE BLD. MAINT.	21.0 A	21.0 A	31.0 A		32.0 A	33.0 A					138.0
SUBTOTAL	- EQUIPMENT	263.0	252.6	183.0	291.0	152.0	289.0	220.0	300.0	227.0	255.0	2432.6
PW-F-01	TREE NURSERY			5.3 A		5.6 A		5.6 R		6.2 R		22.7

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
SUBTOTAL	FORESTRY			5.3		5.6		5.6		6.2		22.7
PW-L-01	CLOSE LANDFILL	4000.0 O										4000.0
SUBTOTAL	SOLID WASTE	4000.0										4000.0
PW-P-03	TOWN PLAYGROUND UPG	17.0 A	17.0 A	17.0 A	10.0 A	17.0 A	20.0 A	17.0 R	20.0 R	10.0 R		145.0
PW-P-05	INDOOR SWIM FACILIT											
PW-P-06	PITMAN BICYCLE PATH		250.0 G									250.0
PW-P-07	TENNIS CT STORAGE		12.0 A									12.0
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE GLEN MEADO	10.5 U										10.5
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE KILLAM SCH		10.5 A									10.5
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE STURGES FI			10.5 A								10.5
PW-P-12	REPL SCHOOL FENCES	20.0 U										20.0
SUBTOTAL	PARKS	47.5	289.5	27.5	10.0	17.0	20.0	17.0	20.0	10.0		458.5
PW-R-01	RESURFACE BANCROFT		40.0 G									40.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE FOREST GL		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GARDNER R		10.0 G									10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GREEN ST		25.0 G									25.0
-R-01	RESURFACE HAVEN ST		30.0 G									30.0
R-01	RESURFACE HIGHLAND		24.0 G									24.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE IDE ST		10.0 G									10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE JOHN ST		30.0 G									30.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE PLEASANT		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE SMITH		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WASHINGTO		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILLOW ST			48.0 G								48.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILSON ST		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-02	PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT	25.0 A										25.0
PW-R-02	RECON - UNDESIGNATE					78.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	2268.0
PW-R-02	RECON ASH ST			84.0 G								84.0
PW-R-02	RECON BEAR HILL RD				145.0 G							145.0
PW-R-02	RECON BERKELEY ST		155.0 G									155.0
PW-R-02	RECON CHAPIN AVE				96.0 G							96.0
PW-R-02	RECON EATON ST	204.0 G										204.0
PW-R-02	RECON GOULD ST			67.0 G								67.0
PW-R-02	RECON GREEN ST			20.0 G								20.0
PW-R-02	RECON HOWARD ST				160.0 G	200.0 G						360.0
PW-R-02	RECON KING ST				96.0 G							96.0
PW-R-02	RECON PENN AVE					160.0 G						160.0
PW-R-02	RECON SHORT/MILL ST			190.0 G								190.0
PW-R-02	RECON SUMMER VALLEY	725.0 G										725.0
PW-R-02	RECONSTRUCT TEMPLE	73.0 U										73.0
PW-R-04	STREET ACCEPTANCES						168.0 B					168.0
PW-R-05	SIDEWALK & CURB CONS	60.0 A	65.0 A	70.0 A	75.0 A	80.0 A	85.0 A	90.0 A	95.0 A	100.0 A	105.0 A	825.0
PW-R-10	WEST STREET RECONST	1410.0 G										1410.0
PW-R-14	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMEN	2764.5 G	800.0 G									3564.5
PW-R-15	PARKING LOT DEVELOP	48.0 A										48.0

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
PW-R-17	RECON WALKERS BROOK		1250.0 G									1250.0
SUBTOTAL	ROAD/STREET	5309.5	2549.0	479.0	572.0	518.0	691.0	528.0	533.0	538.0	543.0	12260.5
SD-E-01	CLASSROOM TECHNOLOG	25.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	925.0
SUBTOTAL	SCHOOLS EQUIP	25.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	925.0
PW-S-01	INFLOW/FILTRATION			155.4 E								155.4
PW-S-02	SEAL SEWER MANHOLES	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E						50.0
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN HIGH ST	47.6 E										47.6
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN PLEASANT	31.0 E										31.0
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN SWEETSER	16.1 E										16.1
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	306.8 E										306.8
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	137.5 B										137.5
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	80.0 G										80.0
PW-S-04	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT			24.0 A			65.0 E					89.0
PW-S-06	SEWER LIFT STATIONS			30.0 E		30.0 E			30.0 E			90.0
SUBTOTAL	SEWER	629.0	10.0	219.4	10.0	40.0	65.0		30.0			1003.4
PW-W-01	LIME SILO PAINTING	7.0 E										7.0
PW-W-02	CARBON FOR FILTERS		193.2 E									193.2
PW-W-02	FLOCCULATOR SHAFT R		30.0 E									30.0
PW-W-02	HIGH SERVICE PUMP R				15.1 E							15.1
PW-W-02	LAB AUTOCLAVE REPL					8.6 E						8.6
PW-W-02	LAB INCUBATOR REPL		7.0 E									7.0
PW-W-02	LAB SPECTROPHOTOMET				7.0 E							7.0
PW-W-02	WATER TRTMT PLANT	75.0 E		9240.0 ED								9315.0
PW-W-03	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT		97.0 E	67.0 E	23.0 A			33.3 E	85.0 E	26.6 E		331.9
PW-W-05	WELL POWER SUPPLY		18.0 E									18.0
PW-W-07	STORAGE TANK REPAIR	448.4 E		8.5 E	8.7 E	9.1 E			9.5 E	9.7 E	10.1 E	504.0
PW-W-07	WATER METER - REMOT											
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN - WAKEFI		40.0 E									40.0
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN CAUSEWAY									32.0 E		32.0
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN KING PRO		5.0 E									5.0
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN LINING			200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	1600.0
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WALKERS		164.9 E									164.9
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WAVERLY			8.4 E								8.4
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WEST ST	90.0 E										90.0
SUBTOTAL	WATER	620.4	555.1	9523.9	253.8	217.7	200.0	233.3	294.5	268.3	210.1	12377.1

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
YEARLY TOTALS:		12513.7	11603.3	11945.6	4476.3	1590.9	1597.1	1834.0	31606.9	1667.7	1427.1	80262.6
SOURCE OF FUNDING:												
A	ANNUAL APPROPRIATION	803.3	850.2	1197.3	678.5	768.2	659.1	973.1	757.4	778.2	704.0	8169.3
B	BETTERMENT	137.5	.				168.0					305.5
CO	CAPITAL/DEBT EXCL. OVRD.								30000.0			30000.0
C	SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS											
D	DEBT TO BE AUTHORIZED	5050.0	7390.0	500.0	3000.0							15940.
E	ENTERPRISE APPROP.	1051.9	581.1	491.3	252.8	269.7	277.0	245.3	336.5	280.3	222.1	4008.
ED	ENTERPRISE DEBT			9240.0								9240.
G	GRANT OUTSIDE FUNDING	5183.5	2734.0	469.0	497.0	498.0	438.0	498.0	438.0	498.0	438.0	11691.
S	SALE OF REAL ESTATE	46.0										46.
R	REVOLVING FUND	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	55.0	55.0	117.6	75.0	111.2	63.0	668.
U	REQUESTED, BUT UNFUNDED	193.5										193.5
		12513.7	11603.3	11945.6	4476.3	1590.9	1597.1	1834.0	31606.9	1667.7	1427.1	80262.6

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved to indefinitely postpone the subject matter of Article 4.

ARTICLE 5 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to appropriate from sewer surplus for the purpose of constructing a sanitary sewage system and sewage facilities on Mill Street, Short Street and a portion of Main Street running from House #1465 to #1503 the sum of $518,300; said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the Board of Selectmen; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with Kenwood Development Corp. or any other entity or person for the purpose of defraying the cost of a portion of such sanitary sewage system and sewage facilities.

ARTICLE 6 – On motion by Robin D'Antona, member of the School Committee, it was moved to indefinitely postpone the subject matter of Article 6.

ARTICLE 7 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to appropriate from available funds for highway projects the sum of $437,834 in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 7 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted that the Town raise by borrowing, whether in anticipation of reimbursement from the State under Chapter 44, Section 6, Massachusetts General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority and appropriate the sum of $466,435 for highway projects in accordance with Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 8 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend one or more of the votes taken under Article 18 of the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting of April 13, 1998, relating to the Fiscal Year 1999 Municipal Budget, and appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Town and its government; all funds to come from State aid, property tax, and non-property tax local receipts, except for Line K1 which is to be appropriated from the sale of real estate funds.

No.	Description	Change in Adopted Budget	New Budget Amount
		$	$
A1	Accounting - Personal Services	1,664	92,732
B1	Conservation - Personal Services	636	41,795
B6	Inspection - Personal Services	818	91,093
B8	Community Development - Personal Services	-13,359	75,831
B9	Community Development – Non Personal Expenses	5,000	9,800
C4	Assessment - Personal Services	1,205	80,418
C7	Technology - Personal Services	1,431	75,831

No.	Description	Change in Adopted Budget	New Budget Amount
C8	Technology - Non-Personal Expenses	300	89,620
C9	Personnel - Personal Services	-37,765	40,146
C11	Finance - Personal Services	2,891	224,061
C12	Finance - Non-Personal Expenses	2,500	52,825
D7	Town Clerk - Personal Services	721	42,948
D11	Property and Casualty Insurance	-5,000	90,000
D12	General Services - Personal Services	1,388	159,352
E1	Health - Personal Services	⊦,733	85,023
E3	Elder Services - Personal Services	483	116,518
E5	Veterans - Personal Services	218	11,109
E8	Recreation - Personal Services	2,030	48,360
E10	Human Services - Personal Services	1,382	51,951
F1	Library - Personal Services	6,552	592,842
G1	Police - Personal Services	3,398	2,493,355
G3	Animal Control – Personal Services	882	14,986
G5	Fire - Personal Services	1,875	2,320,150
H11	Public Works - Personal Services	4,255	1,171,999
H16	Cemetery - Personal Services	447	189,363
J1	School Department	188,000	23,097,000
J2	Northeast Regional Vocational School	23,030	219,592
K1	Debt Service	168,300	3,336,455
K8	Capital Project–DPW Fuel Station	24,000	24,000
K33	Capital Project - Highway Equipment	-24,000	263,000
L2	Non-Contributory Pensions	7,500	91,050
L6	Worker Compensation	-1,475	203,270
	TOTAL		371,040

2/3 vote required
129 voted in the affirmative
- 0 - voted in the negative

ARTICLE 9 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to appropriate the sum of $16,000 from State aid, property taxes, and other non-property tax local revenues for the purpose of funding rubbish collection and recycling from condominiums in the Town of Reading beginning April 1, 1999.

Motion by Nancy M. Graham, Precinct 4, to move the question.

2/3 vote required
61 voted in the affirmative
68 voted in the negative

Motion to move the question did not carry.

On motion by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, to amend the original motion by reducing "$16,000" to "$3,500" and deleting the words "rubbish collection and".

Motion by Willard J. Burditt, Precinct 4, to move the question.

2/3 vote required
106 voted in the affirmative
16 voted in the negative

Motion to move the question carried.

Motion to amend did not carry.

Original motion:

Standing Count
65 voted in the affirmative
60 voted in the negative

On motion by Frederick Van Magness, Precinct 8, it was voted that this Subsequent Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Thursday, November 12, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

147 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **November 12, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:48 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Father Thomas Powers, St. Agnes Catholic Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to table the subject matter of Article 1.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to table the subject matter of Article 2.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to table the subject matter of Article 3.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by Richard W. Schubert, Chairman of the Community Development Commission, it was voted to amend the Reading Zoning By-Laws by amending Section 4.3.4. Adult Uses as follows, or take any other action with respect thereto:

1. Amend Paragraph 4.3.4.3. by deleting the word "may" and substituting therefor the word "shall"; and by deleting the phrase ", with such conditions as it deems appropriate for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare," in the second sentence thereof, so that Paragraph 4.3.4.3. shall read:

   "No Adult Use shall be allowed except by a Special Permit granted by the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals shall grant a Special Permit for an Adult Use in any district permitting such use only if the use is found by the Board of Appeals to comply with the following standards and procedures:"

2. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.a. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet" and substituting therefor the phrase "one hundred (100) feet", so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.a. shall read:

   "a. Within one hundred (100) feet of a boundary line of a residential zoning district;"

3. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.b. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet of a lot line of any lot containing" and substituting therefor the phrase "five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application,"; by

deleting the phrase "park, playground"; and by adding at the end of the subparagraph the phrase "or within five hundred (500) feet of the lot line of a park or playground existing at the time of Special Permit application;" so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.b. shall read:

> "b. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application, a church, public school, private kindergarten or school, licensed day-care facility, public library, cultural facility, museum, elderly housing, assisted living facility, nursing home, or adult day-care facility; or within five hundred (500) feet of the lot line of a park or playground existing at the time of Special Permit application;"

4. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.c. by deleting the phrase "seven hundred fifty (750) feet of a lot line of any lot containing" and substituting therefor the phrase "five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application," so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.c. shall read:

> "c. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing, at the time of Special Permit application, an establishment licensed under the provisions of Section 12 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws;"

5. Amend subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.d. by adding the phrase "structure containing any" between the word "any" and the word "other", so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.1.d. shall read:

> "d. Within five hundred (500) feet of any structure containing any other Adult Use."

6. Delete subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. and renumber the remaining subsequent subparagraphs in Paragraph 4.3.4.3.2.

7. Amend renumbered subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. (former subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.c.) by deleting the second sentence thereof, so that subparagraph 4.3.4.3.2.b. shall read:

> "b. Parking and Loading: On-site parking and loading shall be provided in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 6.1. of these By-Laws as pertains to retail stores, offices and consumer service establishments."

On motion by Harvey J. Dahl, Precinct 8, it was moved to delete the phrase "cultural facility," from section 4.3.4.3.1.b.

On discussion from Town Counsel Ted Cohen, it was deemed and ruled by the moderator that the above motion was out of order.

On original motion:

2/3 vote required
118 voted in the affirmative
- 0 – voted in the negative

On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted that the Special Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die at 8:22 p.m.

118 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **November 12, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 8:22 p.m., there being a quorum present.

ARTICLE 10 – On motion by James A. Keigley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was voted to indefinitely postpone the subject matter of Article 10.

ARTICLE 11 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 288 of Chapter 194, of the Acts of 1998 which concerns the so called "Option (C) Pop-Up" provision, of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

On motion by Philip B. Pacino, Chairman of the Reading Municipal Light Board, it was moved to take Article 19 and 20 out of order.

ARTICLE 19 – On motion by Philip B. Pacino, Chairman of the Reading Municipal Light Board it was voted to transfer the care, custody, management and control of all or any part of the following described property, from the Reading Municipal Light Board for municipal light department purposes to the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Light Board for any other municipal purpose, including the possible sale, lease or land swap thereof; and move that the Town vote to file a petition and/or approve the filing of petition to the General Court, if necessary, for a special act or for leave of the General Court, pursuant to Articles 49 and 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, or any other enabling authority, authorizing the Town to make the foregoing transfer of care, custody, management and control:

The land commonly known as 24 Haverhill Street, North Reading, MA, shown on the North Reading Board of Assessors' July 1, 1995 Map 39 as Parcel 5 consisting of 1.6 acres of land and being the land described in the June 3, 1993 deed of John A. and Helen L. Greene, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 23264, Page 390; and

The land commonly known as 57 Haverhill Street, North Reading, MA, shown on the North Reading Board of Assessors' July 1, 1995 Map 40 as Parcel 67 consisting of 5.4 acres of land and being the land described in the December 31, 1952 deed of Gertrude M. and Charles H. Parker, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 8015, Page 394.

2/3 vote required
125 voted in the affirmative
- 0 - voted in the negative

ARTICLE 20 – On motion by Philip B. Pacino, Chairman of the Reading Municipal Light Board it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Light Board to convey all or any part of the following described property to the Town of North Reading, MA, for the minimum amount of One Dollar ($1.00) and for the conveyance to the Town of approximately 6.5 acres of land in the Town of North Reading, MA, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Light Board to convey all or any part of said property for such amount of

money and other property, or a larger amount of each, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Light Board shall consider proper and to deliver a deed therefor.

The land commonly known as 24 Haverhill Street, North Reading, MA, shown on the North Reading Board of Assessors' July 1, 1995 Map 39 as Parcel 5 consisting of 1.6 acres of land and being the land described in the June 3, 1993 deed of John A. and Helen L. Greene, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 23264, Page 390; and

The land commonly known as 57 Haverhill Street, North Reading, MA, shown on the North Reading Board of Assessors' July 1, 1995 Map 40 as Parcel 67 consisting of 5.4 acres of land and being the land described in the December 31, 1952 deed of Gertrude M. and Charles H. Parker, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 8015, Page 394.

2/3 vote required
124 voted in the affirmative
- 0 - voted in the negative

ARTICLE 12 – On motion by Robert A. Brown, Solid Waste Committee, it was moved to indefinitely postpone the subject matter of Article 12.

ARTICLE 13 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved to indefinitely postpone the subject matter of Article 13.

On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved to take Article 22 out of order.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Richard Schubert, Chairman of the Community Planning and Development Commission, it was moved to amend the Reading Zoning By-Laws by amending Sections 2.2.23., 4.3.1.4. and 4.2.2. thereof as follows, or take any other action with respect thereto:

1. Amend Section 2.2.23. by adding the following words at the end of the current sentence: ", or an assisted living residence as defined in 651 CMR 12.02." so that this Section shall read:
   "2.2.23. Nursing Home: A convalescent or rest home, or an assisted living residence *as defined in 651 CMR 12.02."*

2. Amend Section 4.3.1.4. as follows:

   a. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.a. by adding at the end of the first sentence the words ", or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway", by adding at the end of the second sentence the words "or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway.", by adding in the third sentence the word "local" before the word "street...", and by adding the word "state" before the word "highway" so that this subsection shall read:

      "a. The lot on which the nursing home is to be located either abuts or is partially within a Business A District, or is separated therefrom only by an

Interstate Highway. A lot shall not be considered as abutting a Business A District unless that lot actually, physically touches the Business A District, or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway. A lot on the other side of or separated by a local street or state highway from a Business A District shall not be considered to "abut" that district for the purpose of this section."

b. Delete subsection 4.3.1.4.b. and substitute therefor the following:

"b. Any structure or parking area shall be located not closer than fifty (50) feet to any property line abutting a residence or a local public street."

c. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.d. by deleting the words "four hundred (400)" and substituting therefor the words "three hundred (300)" so that this subsection shall read:

"d. The lot shall be not less than three (3) acres in size with not less than three hundred (300) feet of frontage on an existing public way."

d. Delete subsection 4.3.1.4.f. and substitute therefor the following:

"f. Prior to making application to the Board of Appeals for a Special Permit for a nursing home under this Section, the applicant shall obtain site plan approval from the Community Planning and Development Commission pursuant to Section 4.3.3. of these By-Laws."

e. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.h. by adding the words "or parking areas" at the end of the second sentence thereof, so that this subsection shall read:

"h. Sideline planting shall be required for any sideline of the lot which abuts land being used for residential purposes. The sideline planting shall be at least five feet wide, shall be free of any paving and shall extend from the street line to twenty feet beyond the deepest point on the premises having buildings or parking areas.

The full length of the planting area shall be provided with screening through plantings at least four feet high when planted. Fencing may be used in conjunction with such screening."

f. Add a new subsection 4.3.1.4.k. which shall read as follows:

"k. There shall be provided in perpetuity on site or off-site, in a manner acceptable to the Reading Housing Authority, a minimum allocation of ten percent of the total units, unless otherwise regulated, relative to the development, which total units shall be affordable to very-low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families and/or elderly households as determined by the most recent calculations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Boston Metropolitan Region and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and

Community Development. If acceptable to Community Planning and Development Commission with input from the Reading Housing Authority, this requirement may be satisfied by the payment to the Town or an agency thereof a monetary sum in lieu of provision of actual affordable units in or relative to the development for provision or enhancement of affordable housing in the Town of Reading.

3. Amend Paragraph 4.2.2. "Table of Uses" as follows:

Delete the word "No" and substitute therefor "SPA" under the column, Res S-15, S-20, S-40 and opposite Nursing Home.

ARTICLE 22 - On motion by George A. Theophanis, Precinct 4, it was moved to amend Article 22 by adding to subsection 4.3.1.4.f. the words "The Community Planning and Development Commission may approve a site plan for assisted living, or for combined nursing and assisted living, where the number of assisted living units exceeds 10% of the combined total number of units, only under the following conditions; the gross floor area of the residents' living space excluding common areas, such as but not limited to hallways, dining rooms, offices, recreation areas, medical rooms, employee room and mechanical spaces shall not exceeds 15% of the total lot area."

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, it was moved to lay Article 22 on the table.

Motion to lay Article 22 on the table does not carry.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Mary Ellen O'Neill, Precinct 6, it was moved to amend Subsection 4.3.1.4.k. after "If acceptable to" by deleting the words after "Community Planning and Development Commission with input from".

ARTICLE 22 - On motion by Gail F. Wood, Precinct 2, it was voted to lay Article 22 on the table.

Counted vote requested
52 voted in the affirmative
48 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 14 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was moved to transfer the care, custody, management and control of all or any part of the following described property, currently being used for purposes accessory to the Auburn Street Water Tower, from the Board of Selectmen and/or Reading Department of Public Works to the Board of Selectmen for any other municipal purpose, including the possible sale or lease thereof; and that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition to the General Court, if necessary, for a special act or for leave of the General Court, pursuant to Articles 49 and 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, or any other enabling authority, authorizing the Town to make the foregoing transfer of care, custody, management and control:

The approximately 2500 square feet of land located off Auburn Street, being a portion of what is shown on Board of Assessors' Rev. Jan. 1, 1997, Map 114 as Lots 12, 25 and 26 consisting of 36,631 square feet of land, more or less, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 2014, Page 243.

On motion by William C. Brown to question the quorum.

89 Town Meeting Members present.

Town Moderator declared Town Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum. This Subsequent Town Meeting shall stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Reading Memorial High School, Monday, November 16, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

138 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **November 16, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:45 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Gail F. Wood, Precinct 2, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ARTICLE 14 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was moved to transfer the care, custody, management and control of all or any part of the following described property, currently being used for purposes accessory to the Auburn Street Water Tower, from the Board of Selectmen and/or Reading Department of Public Works to the Board of Selectmen for any other municipal purpose, including the possible sale or lease thereof; and that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition to the General Court, if necessary, for a special act or for leave of the General Court, pursuant to Articles 49 and 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, or any other enabling authority, authorizing the Town to make the foregoing transfer of care, custody, management and control:

The approximately 2500 square feet of land located off Auburn Street, being a portion of what is shown on Board of Assessors' Rev. Jan. 1, 1997, Map 114 as Lots 12, 25 and 26 consisting of 36,631 square feet of land, more or less, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 2014, Page 243.

2/3 vote required
46 voted in the affirmative
61 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 15 – On motion by Camille W. Anthony, Precinct 5, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 15.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Thomas J. Ryan, Precinct 1, it was moved to remove Article 2 from the table.

ARTICLE 2 – On instructional motion by Thomas J. Ryan, Precinct 1, it was moved that the Finance Committee be and hereby is instructed to vote on each Line Item in the Fiscal Year budgets and to report those votes individually in the Report on the Annual Warrant.

Motion did not carry.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Richard W. Schubert, Precinct 7, it was moved to remove Article 22 from the table.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Richard W. Schubert, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend the Reading Zoning By-Laws by amending Sections 2.2.23., 4.3.1.4. and 4.2.2. thereof as follows:

1. Amend Section 2.2.23. by adding the following words at the end of the current sentence: ", or an assisted living residence as defined in 651 CMR 12.02." so that this Section shall read:

"2.2.23. Nursing Home: A convalescent or rest home, or an assisted living residence as defined in 651 CMR 12.02."

2. Amend Section 4.3.1.4. as follows:

a. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.a. by deleting in the first sentence the words "The lot" and substituting therefor the words "As of November 16, 1998 the lot(s)", by adding at the end of the first sentence the words ", or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway", by adding at the end of the second sentence the words "or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway.", by adding in the third sentence the word "local" before the word "street...", and by adding the word "state" before the word "highway" so that this subsection shall read:

"a. As of November 16, 1998 the lot(s) on which the nursing home is to be located either abuts or is partially within a Business A District, or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway. A lot shall not be considered as abutting a Business A District unless that lot actually, physically touches the Business A District, or is separated therefrom only by an Interstate Highway. A lot on the other side of or separated by a local street or state highway from a Business A District shall not be considered to "abut" that district for the purpose of this section."

b. Delete subsection 4.3.1.4.b. and substitute therefor the following:

"b. Any structure or parking area shall be located not closer than fifty (50) feet to any property line abutting a residence or a local public street."

c. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.d. by deleting the words "four hundred (400)" and substituting therefor the words "three hundred (300)" so that this subsection shall read:

"d. The lot shall be not less than three (3) acres in size with not less than three hundred (300) feet of frontage on an existing public way."

d. Delete subsection 4.3.1.4.f. and substitute therefor the following:

"f. Prior to making application to the Board of Appeals for a Special Permit for a nursing home under this Section, the applicant shall obtain site plan approval from the Community Planning and Development Commission pursuant to Section 4.3.3. of these By-Laws.

The Community Planning and Development Commission may approve a site plan for an assisted living residence, or for combined nursing and assisted living residence when the number of assisted living units exceeds 10% of the combined total number of units, only under the following conditions: the gross floor area of the residents' living space excluding common areas, such as but not limited to hallways, dining rooms, offices, recreation areas, medical rooms, employee rooms and mechanical spaces shall not exceed 15% of the total lot area. For purposes of this section total lot area shall include any land shown on the site plan which is conveyed to the Town of Reading for nominal consideration.

e. Amend subsection 4.3.1.4.h. by adding the words "or parking areas" at the end of the second sentence thereof, so that this subsection shall read:

"h. Sideline planting shall be required for any sideline of the lot which abuts land being used for residential purposes. The sideline planting shall be at least five feet wide, shall be free of any paving and shall extend from the street line to twenty feet beyond the deepest point on the premises having buildings or parking areas.

The full length of the planting area shall be provided with screening through plantings at least four feet high when planted. Fencing may be used in conjunction with such screening."

f. Add a new subsection 4.3.1.4.k. which shall read as follows:

"k. There shall be provided in perpetuity on site or off-site, in a manner acceptable to the Reading Housing Authority, a minimum allocation of ten percent of the total units, unless otherwise regulated, relative to the development, which total units shall be affordable to very-low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families and/or elderly households as determined by the most recent calculations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Boston Metropolitan Region and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and Community Development. If acceptable to the Reading Housing Authority with input from the Community Planning and Development Commission, this requirement may be satisfied by the payment to the Town or an agency thereof a monetary sum in lieu of provision of actual affordable units in or relative to the development for provision or enhancement of affordable housing in the Town of Reading.

3. Amend Paragraph 4.2.2. "Table of Uses" as follows:
Delete the word "No" and substitute therefor "SPA" under the column, Res S-15, S-20, S-40 and opposite Nursing Home.

Don Allen, Vice Chairman of the Housing Authority, wanted to clarify the intent regarding the wording of the language in the warrant to amend Section 4.3.1.4., section f. The Authority would like to be very clear tha thte intent of CPDC in referring to "unless otherwise regulated" only refers to regulations of specific programs for very-low income, low-income, and moderate-income families and/or elderly households. Is this the intent of that language?

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Ronald M. Daddario, Precinct 6, to amend Article 22 by deleting in section 4.3.1.4.k. the words "If acceptable to the Community Planning and Development Commission with input from the Reading Housing Authority, this requirement may be satisfied by the payment to the Town or an agency thereof a monetary sum in lieu of provision of actual affordable units in or relative to the development for provision or enhancement of affordable housing in the Town of Reading."

Motion to amend by Ronald Daddario, Precinct 6, does not carry.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
78 voted in the affirmative
45 voted in the negative

Motion to move the question, does not carry.

ARTICLE 22 – On motion by Janet Baronian, Precinct 8, it was moved to amend 4.3.1.4.k by replacing "ten" with "twenty".

Motion to amend by Janet Baronian, Precinct 8, did not carry.

On original substitute motion brought forth tonight.

2/3 vote required
125 voted in the affirmative
1 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 16 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to transfer the care, custody, management and control of all or any part of the following described property, currently being held for public purposes, from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Selectmen for any other municipal purpose, including the possible sale or lease thereof; and that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a petition to the General Court, if necessary, for a special act or for leave of the General Court, pursuant to Articles 49 and 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, or any other enabling authority, authorizing the Town to make the foregoing transfer of care, custody, management and control:

The land located on Sweetser Avenue and Washington Street shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Revised Jan.1, 1984, Map 52 as Lot 22A consisting of 17,315 square feet of land, more

or less, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 4052, Page 596.

2/3 vote required
unanimous vote

A quorum being present, with a unanimous show of hands the moderator declared the unanimous vote.

TO READING ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

ARTICLE 17 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey all or any part of the following described property, and that the minimum amount of $1 be paid for such conveyance, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey all or any part of said property for such amount of money, or a larger amount, and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall consider proper (including the condition that the property only be used for, or as an adjunct to, historical purposes and not as a source of pecuniary profit) and to deliver a deed therefor:

The land located on Sweetser Avenue and Washington Street shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Revised Jan.1, 1984, Map 52 as Lot 22A consisting of 17,315 square feet of land, more or less, and being a portion of the land described at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 4052, Page 596.

2/3 vote required
unanimous vote

A quorum being present, with a unanimous show of hands the moderator declared the unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 18 - On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant an easement on, over, under or in a portion of the following described property to the Reading Municipal Light Department for the location, maintenance and use of an electrical transformer and related wires and equipment for the purpose of providing electrical service to such property and abutting properties, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to grant such easement for the minimum amount of One Dollar ($1.00) and upon such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall consider proper:

The land commonly known as 13 Union Street, shown on Board of Assessors' Revised January 1, 1983, Map 76 as Lot 08 and being the land described in a deed dated December 30, 1997 recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Document No. 453 of December 31, 1997.

2/3 vote required
unanimous vote

A quorum being present, with a unanimous show of hands the moderator declared the unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 21 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to amend Section 6.3.1.1. of the Reading Zoning By-Laws by inserting the letter "a." before the existing text and adding a new subsection "b." so that Section 6.3.1.1. shall read as follows, or take any other action with respect thereto:

"6.3.1.1.

a. Any lot that has been built upon may be changed in size or shape so as to create or increase violations of the area, yard or coverage provisions of this By-Law, only if such change is due to an acquisition of a portion of the lot for a public purpose.

b. Any lot that has been built upon may be changed in size or shape so as to create or increase violations of the dimensional provisions of this By-Law if such change is due to the disposition of one or more Town-owned rights-of-way or properties, declared by the Board of Selectmen to be surplus and no longer needed by the Town, as long as that right-of-way or property or portions thereof are incorporated into and become an integral part of a lot.

2/3 vote required
unanimous vote

A quorum being present, with a unanimous show of hands the moderator declared the unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 23 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to amend Section 6.2 Signs of the Reading Zoning By-Laws by amending Sections 6.2.2.4.d. and Section 6.2.3.2.1. thereof as follows, or take any other action with respect thereto:

1. Amend Section 6.2.2.4.d. by adding after the phrase "off-premises signs" the phrase "(except by special permit as provided in Section 6.2.3.2.1.)" so that this Section shall read:

   d. Banners (except as an "OPEN" flag as specified in Paragraph 6.2.3.2.1 below, or a temporary sign as specified in Paragraph 6.2.3.2.i below) pennants, off-premises signs (except by special permit as provided in Section 6.2.3.2.1.), portable signs, roof signs extending above the parapet or ridgeline of a structure, or strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background, of any type, except as provided in Subsection 6.2.2.5.e.

2. Amend Section 6.2.3.2.1. by adding the following:

   The Board of Appeals may grant a Special Permit for an Off Premises Sign including an outdoor advertising sign ("billboard") in a Business A zoning district under the following conditions:

a. The proposed sign shall be in a Business A district immediately abutting an Interstate Highway, and within 25 feet of the main right of way of such highway excluding on and off ramps;

b. The placement of the proposed sign shall be conditioned upon the elimination of no less than three non-conforming Off Premises signs elsewhere in the Town of Reading;

c. There shall be no more than one Off Premises sign on any one lot that existed as a separate lot at the time of adoption of this section;

d. The sign may be double sided with no greater than a 30 degree angle of separation between the two faces;

e. Illumination of the sign shall be by external illumination only and illumination shall be limited to the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

f. The sign shall not exceed 675 square feet on each of the two permitted faces;

g. The maximum height of any Off Premises sign shall be 95 feet from the ground level upon which the sign is installed to the highest point of the structure;

h. The nearest part of any Off Premises sign shall be no closer than 20 feet from an abutting property, and no less than 10 feet from the highway right of way; and

i. The proposed use shall not be detrimental to the public good.

ARTICLE 23 – On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to amend section f. by replacing "6:00 p.m." with "1/2 hour before sunset".

Amendment does not carry.

2/3 vote required
84 voted in the affirmative
27 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 24 – On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was moved that the subject matter of Article 24 be indefinitely postposted.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by David Lautman, Precinct 4, it was moved to remove Article 2 from the table.

ARTICLE 2 – On instructional motion by David Lautman, Precinct 4, it was moved to instruct the Selectmen and any other appropriate Boards or Committees to accept Sprint's proposal to place their equipment on the water tower in a place contiguous to the structures already present for MCI and AT&T.

Motion did not carry.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved to lay Article 2 on the table.

On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted that the Subsequent Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die at 10:23 p.m.

134 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **December 7, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Alan E. Foulds, at 7:46 p.m., there being a quorum present.

The Invocation was given by Dr. David Reid, First Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except for the Officer's Return, which was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 1 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved to table the subject matter of Article 1.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Sally M. Hoyt, Precinct 4, it was moved to table the subject matter of Article 2.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend the "Town of Reading, Massachusetts, Ten Year Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 1999 through 2008" by adopting the Capital Improvements Program printed 04 Dec. 1998 as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

On motion by George V. Hines, Precinct 7, it was voted to table the subject matter of Article 3.

Point of Order by Robert S. Salter, Precinct 4, to question whether we can make a motion to table. Town Meeting can table Article 3 with the intent to hear information on Articles 4 and 5, but must vote on Article 3 before voting on Articles 4 and 5.

On motion to table:

Counted Vote Requested
80 voted in the affirmative
70 voted in the negative

Point of Order by Jacqueline S. Chipman, Precinct 6, informing non-town meeting members that they cannot vote on Articles. Moderator instructed non-town meeting members that they must sit behind the checkers and cannot vote on town matters.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by Russell T. Graham, Precinct 4, to move to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 (3) and 7 (3A) of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of eight million nine hundred and ten thousand dollars ($8,910,000) for the purpose of constructing a new school and associated recreational facilities on the following described land, including the costs of original furnishings and equipment, landscaping, paving and other site

improvements, engineering and architectural fees, plans and specifications, inspection fees, relocation costs, contingencies and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; that any maturities of an issue of bonds or notes authorized hereby may, to the extent permitted by law be arranged so that the amounts of principal and interest combined for the several years shall be as nearly equal as practicable in the opinion of the Town Treasurer and the Selectmen or in accordance with a schedule providing a more rapid amortization of principal; and to vote to authorize the School Committee to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said school construction and related matters, and to vote to authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article

> The land off Dividence Road shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Rev. Jan. 1, 1981 Map 207 as Lot 3 consisting of 2.0 acres and Lot 4 consisting of 9.6 acres, which land was acquired by the Town for school and recreation site purposes by Order of Taking dated April 13, 1970, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 11831, Page 432.

On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted that the Special Town Meeting stand adjourned to meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Parker Middle School, Thursday, December 10, 1998.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

170 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

School Committee Report to Town Meeting – December 7, 1998

The School Committee voted 5-0-0 to endorse the elementary school building plan. This vote was based on a myriad of information from a variety of sources including:

The superintendent who notified the School Committee during the 1997 budget process that the enrollment was increasing at a greater rate than originally anticipated.

This was validated by **the NESDEC** predictions, which documented the dramatic increase in the incoming student population

Using this information, **the School Size Enrollment Committee** studied the issue, developed possible solutions and reported their recommendations directly to the School Committee.

The School Building Committee who commissioned the feasibility study that was approved by Spring 1998 Town Meeting, presented the building plan solution to the School Committee.

Other resources for the School Committee included **the modified Capitol Plan** for 1999 and **the SBAB** who consulted with us regarding the optimum way to utilize the 66% state reimbursement program.

The final School Committee vote to endorse this Elementary Building project, took place after considerable deliberation on the topic. Make no mistake, the School Committee recognizes the gravity of the financial issues, but when weighed against the space needs, the choice is clear. The project, which is being presented to

you tonight, includes a new school at Dividence Road as well renovations and additions to the Barrows School.

We are grateful to all the members of those committees who diligently worked to gather information so that the School Committee could make an informed decision. At this time we are respectfully requesting Town meeting to support this elementary building project in order to preserve the quality of education in our community well into the 21st century.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin D'Antona, School Committee Chair

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Reading Memorial High School **December 10, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk, Cheryl Johnson, at 7:468 p.m., there being a quorum present. Since the Moderator, Alan Foulds, is away this evening, I am asking for nominations for temporary Moderator.

Paul C. Dustin will be temporary Moderator for this Town Meeting.

The Invocation was given by Father Arthur Flynn, St. Agnes Catholic Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

We will be continuing with discussion on Article 4.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, to move the question.

Moderator informed Town Meeting that this would end discussion of Article 4.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted to table the subject matter of 4.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to take Article 3 off the table.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Matthew J. Nestor, Precinct 7, it was voted to amend the "Town of Reading, Massachusetts, Ten Year Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 1999 through 2008" by adopting the Capital Improvements Program printed 04 Dec. 1998 as provided for in Section 7-7 of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

ARTICLE 3 – On motion by Margaret W. Russell, Precinct 8, it was voted to move the question.

2/3 vote required
123 voted in the affirmative
26 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to take Article 4 off the table.

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by Russell T. Graham, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 (3) and 7 (3A) of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of eight million nine hundred and ten thousand dollars ($8,910,000) for the purpose of constructing a new school and associated recreational facilities on the following described land, including the costs of original furnishings and equipment, landscaping, paving and other site improvements, engineering and architectural fees, plans and specifications, inspection

TOWN OF READING MASSACHUSETTS
TEN YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2008
PRINTED 18-NOV-98

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
B-S-09	REMOVE/REPLACE OIL	40.0 U		40.0 A			40.0 A	50.0 A				170.0
B-S-14	RMHS RENOVATION								30000. CO			30000.0
B-S-15	KILLAM RENOVATION				3000.0 D							3000.0
B-S-17	ELEM. SCH. PHASE 1	8905.0 D										8905.0
B-S-18	ELEM. SCH. PHASE 2	6580.0 D										6580.0
B-S-18	PARKER LAND ACQ	46.0 S										46.0
		15571.		40.0	3000.0		40.0	50.0	30000.			48701.0
B-T-04	DPW MAINT. EXPANSIO		40.0 A	500.0 D								540.0
B-T-05	DPW FUEL REPLACEMEN	84.0 A										84.0
B-T-07	DPW GAR. MEZZANINE	10.0 U										10.0
B-T-08	ROOF REPAIRS							30.0 A				30.0
B-T-11	TOWN FACILITY MAINT	50.0 A	80.0 A	35.0 A	12.0 A	75.0 A	15.0 A	50.0 A	17.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	394.0
B-T-12	TOWN HALL MASONRY W	65.0 A										65.0
B-T-12	WINDOW REPAIR/REPLA	10.0 A	10.0 A	25.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	115.0
B-T-14	LIBRARY RENOVATIONS	27.0 A										27.0
		246.0	130.0	560.0	22.0	85.0	25.0	90.0	27.0	40.0	40.0	1265.0
CD- -01	ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE	40.0 U		40.0 A		40.0 A		40.0 R		40.0 R		200.0
CD- -01	ACQUIRE OPEN SPACE/			60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		60.0 G		240.0
CD- -02	PRESERVE LOBS POUND											
CD- -02	PRESERVE LOBS POUND											
		40.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		440.0
FN- -01	REPL DATA PROC EQ-A	80.0 A	64.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	48.0 A	528.0
FN- -01	REPL DATA PROC EQ-E	20.0 E	16.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	12.0 E	132.0
SUBTOTAL	FINANCE	100.0	80.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	660.0
GS- -04	FLEXIBLE ACCOUNT	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	10.0 A	100.0
GS- -05	OPTICAL IMAGING SYS		41.0 A									41.0
GS- -06	NEIGHBORHOOD IMP. P	48.0 R	48.0 R	48.0 R	48.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	55.0 R	63.0 R	530.0
		58.0	99.0	58.0	58.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	65.0	73.0	671.0
HS- -01	ELDER SERVICES VAN				58.0 A						61.0 A	119.0
					58.0						61.0	119.0
LB- -01	LIBRARY COMPUTERS	19.3 A		51.8 A	6.5 A		7.1 A	24.2 A		6.0 A		114.9
LB- -02	CIRCULATION SYSTEM		21.5 A									21.5
LB- -03	LIBRARY FURNISHINGS		10.5 A	5.4 A		5.6 A		5.9 A		6.2 A		33.6
LB- -03	MATERIALS FLOW SYST		50.0 A									50.0
LB- -04	CIRCULATION DESK		10.5 A									10.5

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
SUBTOTAL	LIBRARY	19.3	92.5	57.2	6.5	5.6	7.1	30.1		12.2		230.5
PS-F-07	REPLACE FIRE PUMPER			261.6 A								261.6
PS-F-08	REPLACE AMBULANCE			110.7 A					142.4 A			253.1
PS-F-10	REPLACE CHIEF'S VEH					33.0 A						33.0
PS-F-15	PURCH SKID PUMP UNI					9.3 A						9.3
PS-F-17	REPLACE FIRE HOSE					10.7 A						10.7
PS-F-18	REHAB ENGINE 3		16.8 A									16.8
SUBTOTAL	FIRE		16.8	372.3		53.0			142.4			584.5
PS-P-02	REPLACE RADIO EQUIP	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	5.0 A	50.0
PS-P-03	POLICE COMPUTERS		8.8 A			25.0 A						33.8
SUBTOTAL	POLICE	5.0	13.8	5.0	5.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	83.8
PW-C-07	CEMETERY RD RECONST		10.0 A									10.0
SUBTOTAL	CEMETERY		10.0									10.0
PW-D-01	ABERJONA DRAINAGE I									206.0 A	50.0 A	256.0
PW-D-01	GEN. DRAIN. IMP.	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	30.0 A	255.0
PW-D-03	SAUGUS RIV. DRAINAG	750.0 D		140.0 A		112.0 A		300.0 A				1302.0
		765.0	15.0	155.0	30.0	142.0	30.0	330.0	30.0	236.0	80.0	1813.0
PW-E-01	REPLACE LOADERS				30.0 A	35.0 A	56.0 A	135.0 A	135.0 A	98.0 A	85.0 A	574.0
PW-E-04	REPLACE DUMP TRUCKS	41.0 A	134.0 A	68.0 A	68.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	70.0 A	731.0
PW-E-05	REPLACE PICKUP TRUC			57.0 A					79.0 A			136.0
PW-E-10	REPLACE SNOW PLOWS		12.6 A	13.0 A	13.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	15.0 A	16.0 A	16.0 A		115.6
PW-E-11	REPLACE MOWERS		70.0 A		31.0 A							101.0
PW-E-12	REPLACE COMPRESSOR		15.0 A									15.0
PW-E-13	REPLACE TRAILER									8.0 A		8.0
PW-E-16	REPLACE SANDERS				14.0 A							14.0
PW-E-17	REPLACE GRADER										100.0 A	100.0
PW-E-18	REPLACE SNOWBLOWER	201.0 A										201.0
PW-E-19	REPLACE BUCKET TRUC						90.0 A					90.0
PW-E-20	REPLACE CHIPPER						25.0 A					25.0
PW-E-21	REPLACE ROLLER			14.0 A						35.0 A		49.0
PW-E-24	REPLACE SWEEPER				135.0 A							135.0
PW-E-25	REPLACE BLD. MAINT.	21.0 A	21.0 A	31.0 A		32.0 A	33.0 A					138.0
SUBTOTAL	- EQUIPMENT	263.0	252.6	183.0	291.0	152.0	289.0	220.0	300.0	227.0	255.0	2432.6
PW-F-01	TREE NURSERY			5.3 A		5.6 A		5.6 R		6.2 R		22.7

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
SUBTOTAL FORESTRY				5.3		5.6		5.6		6.2		22.7
PW-L-01	CLOSE LANDFILL	4000.0 D										4000.0
SUBTOTAL SOLID WASTE		4000.0										4000.0
PW-P-03	TOWN PLAYGROUND UPG	17.0 A	17.0 A	17.0 A	10.0 A	17.0 A	20.0 A	17.0 R	20.0 R	10.0 R		145.0
PW-P-05	INDOOR SWIM FACILIT											
PW-P-06	PITMAN BICYCLE PATH		250.0 G									250.0
PW-P-07	TENNIS CT STORAGE		12.0 A									12.0
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE GLEN MEADO	10.5 U										10.5
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE KILLAM SCH		10.5 A									10.5
PW-P-11	IRRIGATE STURGES FI			10.5 A								10.5
PW-P-12	REPL SCHOOL FENCES	20.0 U										20.0
SUBTOTAL PARKS		47.5	289.5	27.5	10.0	17.0	20.0	17.0	20.0	10.0		458.5
PW-R-01	RESURFACE BANCROFT		40.0 G									40.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE FOREST GL		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GARDNER R		10.0 G									10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE GREEN ST		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE HAVEN ST		30.0 G									30.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE HIGHLAND		24.0 G									24.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE IDE ST		10.0 G									10.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE JOHN ST		30.0 G									30.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE PLEASANT		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE SMITH		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WASHINGTO		20.0 G									20.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILLOW ST			48.0 G								48.0
PW-R-01	RESURFACE WILSON ST		25.0 G									25.0
PW-R-02	PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT	25.0 A										25.0
PW-R-02	RECON - UNDESIGNATE					78.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	438.0 G	2268.0
PW-R-02	RECON ASH ST			84.0 G								84.0
PW-R-02	RECON BEAR HILL RD				145.0 G							145.0
PW-R-02	RECON BERKELEY ST		155.0 G									155.0
PW-R-02	RECON CHAPIN AVE				96.0 G							96.0
PW-R-02	RECON EATON ST	204.0 G										204.0
PW-R-02	RECON GOULD ST			67.0 G								67.0
PW-R-02	RECON GREEN ST			20.0 G								20.0
PW-R-02	RECON HOWARD ST				160.0 G	200.0 G						360.0
PW-R-02	RECON KING ST				96.0 G							96.0
PW-R-02	RECON PENNA AVE					160.0 G						160.0
PW-R-02	RECON SHORT/MILL ST			190.0 G								190.0
PW-R-02	RECON SUMMER WN-WES	725.0 G										725.0
PW-R-02	RECONSTRUCT TEMPLE	73.0 U										73.0
PW-R-04	STREET ACCEPTANCES						168.0 B					168.0
PW-R-05	SIDEWLK & CURB CONS	60.0 A	65.0 A	70.0 A	75.0 A	80.0 A	85.0 A	90.0 A	95.0 A	100.0 A	105.0 A	825.0
PW-R-12	WEST STREET RECONST	1410.0 G										1410.0
PW-R-14	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMEN	2764.5 G	800.0 G									3564.5
PW-R-15	PARKING LOT DEVELOP	48.0 A										48.0

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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOTAL
PW-R-17	RECON WALKERS BROOK		1250.0 G									1250.0
SUBTOTAL	ROAD/STREET	5309.5	2549.0	479.0	572.0	518.0	691.0	528.0	533.0	538.0	543.0	12260.5
SD-E-01	CLASSROOM TECHNOLOG	25.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	100.0 A	925.0
SUBTOTAL	SCHOOLS EQUIP	25.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	925.0
PW-S-01	INFLOW/FILTRATION			155.4 E								155.4
PW-S-02	SEAL SEWER MANHOLES	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E	10.0 E						50.0
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN HIGH ST	47.6 E										47.6
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN PLEASANT	31.0 E										31.0
PW-S-02	SEWER MAIN SWEETSER	16.1 E										16.1
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	306.8 E										306.
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	137.5 B										137
PW-S-03	SEWER MAIN MILL&SHO	80.0 G										80.
PW-S-04	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT			24.0 A			65.0 E					89.
PW-S-06	SEWER LIFT STATIONS			30.0 E		30.0 E			30.0 E			90.0
SUBTOTAL	SEWER	629.0	10.0	219.4	10.0	40.0	65.0		30.0			1003.4
PW-W-01	LIME SILO PAINTING	7.0 E										7.0
PW-W-02	CARBON FOR FILTERS		193.2 E									193.2
PW-W-02	FLOCCULATOR SHAFT R		30.0 E									30.0
PW-W-02	HIGH SERVICE PUMP R				15.1 E							15.
PW-W-02	LAB AUTOCLAVE REPL					8.6 E						8.6
PW-W-02	LAB INCUBATOR REPL		7.0 E									7.0
PW-W-02	LAB SPECTROPHOTOMET				7.0 E							7.0
PW-W-02	WATER TRTMT PLANT	75.0 E		9240.0 ED								9315.0
PW-W-03	VEHICLE REPLACEMENT		97.0 E	67.0 E	23.0 A			33.3 E	85.0 E	26.6 E		331.
PW-W-05	WELL POWER SUPPLY		18.0 E									18.0
PW-W-07	STORAGE TANK REPAIR	448.4 E		8.5 E	8.7 E	9.1 E			9.5 E	9.7 E	10.1 E	504.0
PW-W-07	WATER METER - REMOT											
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN - WAKEFI		40.0 E									40.0
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN CAUSEWAY									32.0 E		32.
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN KING PRO		5.0 E									5.
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN LINING			200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	200.0 E	1600.
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WALKERS		164.9 E									164.
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WAVERLY			8.4 E								8.
PW-W-08	WATER MAIN WEST ST	90.0 E										90.
SUBTOTAL	WATER	620.4	555.1	9523.9	253.8	217.7	200.0	233.3	294.5	268.3	210.1	12377.

TOWN OF READING MASSACHUSETTS
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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	TOT
YEARLY TOTALS:		27698.7	4213.3	11945.6	4476.3	1590.9	1597.1	1834.0	31606.9	1667.7	1427.1	88057.
SOURCE OF FUNDING:												
A	ANNUAL APPROPRIATION	803.3	850.2	1197.3	678.5	768.2	659.1	973.1	757.4	778.2	704.0	8169.3
B	BETTERMENT	137.5					168.0					305.5
CO	CAPITAL/DEBT EXCL. OVRD.								30000.0			30000.0
C	SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS											
D	DEBT TO BE AUTHORIZED	20235.0		500.0	3000.0							23735.0
E	ENTERPRISE APPROP.	1051.9	581.1	491.3	252.8	269.7	277.0	245.3	336.5	280.3	222.1	4008.0
ED	ENTERPRISE DEBT			9240.0								9240.0
G	GRANT OUTSIDE FUNDING	5183.5	2734.0	469.0	497.0	498.0	438.0	498.0	438.0	498.0	438.0	11691.5
S	SALE OF REAL ESTATE	46.0										46.0
R	REVOLVING FUND	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	55.0	55.0	117.6	75.0	111.2	63.0	668.8
U	REQUESTED, BUT UNFUNDED	193.5										193.5
		27698.7	4213.3	11945.6	4476.3	1590.9	1597.1	1834.0	31606.9	1667.7	1427.1	88057.6

fees, relocation costs, contingencies and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; that any maturities of an issue of bonds or notes authorized hereby may, to the extent permitted by law be arranged so that the amounts of principal and interest combined for the several years shall be as nearly equal as practicable in the opinion of the Town Treasurer and the Selectmen or in accordance with a schedule providing a more rapid amortization of principal; and to vote to authorize the School Committee to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said school construction and related matters, and to vote to authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article

The land off Dividence Road shown on Reading Board of Assessors' Rev. Jan. 1, 1981 Map 207 as Lot 3 consisting of 2.0 acres and Lot 4 consisting of 9.6 acres, which land was acquired by the Town for school and recreation site purposes by Order of Taking dated April 13, 1970, recorded at the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 11831, Page 432.

ARTICLE 4 - On motion by William C. Brown, Precinct 8, it was voted to move the question

2/3 vote required
123 voted in the affirmative
26 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 4 – On motion by Pasquale M. Iapicca, Precinct 8, it was moved to take a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Precinct 1		Precinct 2	
James E. Barry	Yes	Virginia M. Adams	Yes
Ruth P. Boyd	No	Alan D. Beaulieu	Yes
Lawrence D. Chomsky	Yes	Michael A. Bourque	Yes
Kay E. Clark	Yes	Francis P. Burke	Yes
Susan Bryant Conley	Yes	Dolores S. Carroll	(Absent)
Herbert W. Converse	No	Marlene W. Cohen	Yes
Mark L. Dockser	Yes	Stephen L. Crook	Yes
Catherine S. Durant	Yes	Wayne Davis	(Absent)
Nancy L. Eaton	No	Donna M. Fallon	Yes
William R. Grace	Yes	John L. Fallon, Jr.	(Absent)
Barry K. Greenwood	(Absent)	Philip D. LeBlanc	No
Mary F. Grimmer	Yes	Debbie H. McCulley	Yes
Andrew K. Herlihy	Yes	Richard J. Moore	Yes
Lorraine Horn	Yes	Alice M. O'Sullivan	No
Beth Ann Matathia	Yes	John E. Parsons, III	(Absent)
Lori L. Miller	Yes	Cheryl C. Power	(Absent)

Dean L. Mola	Yes	Mary Jane Quinn	Yes
Ellen Mounteer	Yes	Anthony L. Rickley	Yes
Nancy W. Ortiz	Yes	Rita C. Robertson	(Absent)
Thomas J. Ryan	(Absent)	Wendy J. Small	(Absent)
Frances C. Sansalone	Yes	Bernice F. Svedlow	No
Nancy H. Stager	Yes	David A. Tanner	No
James K. Taylor	Yes	Gail F. Wood	No
Laura A. Wilson	Yes	John D. Wood	No

Precinct 3

Daniel H. Ballou, Jr.	(Absent)
William T. Bogaert	(Absent)
Lois K. Bond	No
Douglas A. Bruce	No
John R. Casciano	(Absent)
John L. Casey, Jr.	No
Robert J. Coffey	No
Elizabeth G. Dew	(Absent)
Roberta C. D'Antona	Yes
Agnes H. Donovan	(Absent)
Alice C. Grau	Yes
Bryan Hodgkins, II	(Absent)
Timothy J. Houston	Yes
Paul A. Johnson	No
William F. Lavoie	Yes
Gerald L. MacDonald	No
Catherine L. Martin	Yes
Steven G. Oston	Yes
William A. Pacunas	(Absent)
Richard F. Smith, Jr.	(Absent)
Jacalyn S. Wallace	No
Wendall T. Wallace	No
Lance Watson	(Absent)
Ronald L. Wood	No

Precinct 4

Willard J. Burditt	(Absent)
Michele A. Carrick	Yes
Stephen M. Conner	Yes
Nancy M. Graham	Yes
Russell T. Graham	Yes
Glen M. Hartzler	Yes
Sally M. Hoyt	Yes
Mark W. Jackson	(Absent)
Susan B. Kalmakis	Yes
David Lautman	Yes
W. Bruce McDonald	Yes
Richard F. McDonald	Yes
Thomas J. Meharg	Yes
Linda M. Molloy	Yes
Philip B. Pacino	(Present)
Sharon L. Petersen	Yes
William A. Redford	Yes
Leora E. Roberts	Yes
Everett J. Roscoe, Jr.	Yes
Robert S. Salter	Yes
Edward G. Smethurst	(Present)
George A. Theophanis	Yes
Timothy R. Twomey	Yes
Mary S. Ziegler	Yes

Precinct 5

Camille W. Anthony	(Absent)
Henry J. Bardol, Jr.	(Absent)
Jonathan E. Barnes	Yes
Brian A. Broad	(Absent)
Loretta E. Cavagnaro	Yes
Susan C. Cavicchi	Yes
Ruth L. Clay	(Absent)
Joseph G. Duffy	Yes

Precinct 6

James E. Biller	Yes
Robert A. Brown	(Present)
Christopher R. Campbell	(Absent)
Stephen A. Chapman	Yes
Brook W. Chipman	Yes
Jacqueline S. Chipman	Yes
Stewart D. Chipman	Yes
Ralph A. Colorusso	Yes

Paul C. Dustin	Yes	Frances P. Crann	No
Robert L. Fuller	Yes	Ronald M. Daddario	Yes
Brevard S. Garrison	Yes	Kevin M. Douglas	Yes
Eleanor K. Higgott	No	James J. Fandel	Yes
Catherine R. Kaminer	Yes	James B. Francis	Yes
Paul A. Kelley	Yes	Thomas J. Green, Jr.	Yes
Timothy J. Kelley	Yes	Diana M. Kaine	No
Lawrence E. Mabius	Yes	James A. Keigley	No
Joseph P. Marshall	Yes	Robert R. Lynch	No
Peter J. O'Shea	Yes	Jacquelyn A. Mandell	No
Thomas J. Stohlman, Jr.	Yes	Mary Ellen O'Neill	Yes
Kathleen S. Vaccaro	Yes	Stephen P. Quigley	Yes
Ann Caulfield Ward	Yes	Diane N. Slezak	Yes
Matthew L. Wilson	(Absent)	Michael F. Slezak	Yes
		William H. Watt	(Absent)
		Nathan C. White	(Absent)

Precinct 7

Peter A. Brown	Yes
John E. Carpenter	Yes
Cathy E. Commito	Yes
Douglas R. Cowell	Yes
Joanne T. Cusolito	Yes
Carmen Dutile-Redfearn	Yes
John J. Greichen, Jr.	(Absent)
George V. Hines	(Absent)
William J. Hughes, Jr.	(Absent)
Mark H. Johnson	Yes
Norman F. Kozlowski	Yes
William C. Leach	Yes
Nancy B. Matheson	Yes
Charles D. Moran	Yes
Mark E. Nelson	Yes
Matthew J. Nestor	Yes
Gary M. Nihan	Yes
Richard A. Radville	Yes
Richard W. Schubert	Yes
Charles A. Smith	Yes
Jeffrey W. Struble	Yes
Patrick S. Sudbay	Yes
David M. Swyter	Yes
Kathy J. Whittaker	Yes

Precinct 8

Janet Baronian	Yes
William C. Brown	No
Matthew Cummings	Yes
Harvey J. Dahl	Yes
John K. Downing	Yes
Nancy Gadzuk Drexler	Yes
Carol S. Grimm	Yes
William J. Griset, Jr.	Yes
Peter Grossman	Yes
Kim R. Honetschlager	Yes
Gloria R. Hulse	No
Pasquale M. Iapicca	No
Stephen Joseph Ippolito	No
Frederick F. Martin, Jr.	Yes
Robert I. Nordstrand	Yes
Marjorie C. O'Donnell	No
George B. Perry, II	No
Bernice H. Pierce	No
John E. Rattigan, Jr.	Yes
John H. Russell	Yes
Margaret W. Russell	Yes
Frederick Van Magness	No
Frederick Van Magness, Jr.	No
Charles A. Wayne	Yes

2/3 vote required
123 voted in the affirmative
33 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 5 - On motion by Russell T. Graham, Precinct 4, it was voted to raise by borrowing under Chapter 44, Sections 7 (3) and 7 (3A) of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 645 of the Acts of 1948 as amended, or any other enabling authority, and appropriate the sum of six million five hundred eighty five thousand dollars ($6,585,000) for the purpose of constructing an addition, remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Alice M. Barrows School on Edgemont Avenue, including the costs of original furnishings and equipment, landscaping, paving and other site improvements, engineering and architectural fees, plans and specifications, inspection fees, relocation costs, contingencies and related expenses incidental thereto and necessary in connection therewith, said sum to be expended by and under the direction of the School Committee; that any maturities of an issue of bonds or notes authorized hereby may, to the extent permitted by law be arranged so that the amounts of principal and interest combined for the several years shall be as nearly equal as practicable in the opinion of the Town Treasurer and the Selectmen or in accordance with a schedule providing a more rapid amortization of principal; and to vote to authorize the School Committee to file applications for a grant or grants to be used to defray all or any part of the cost of said school renovations and addition and related matters, and to vote to authorize the School Committee to enter into all contracts and agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article.

2/3 vote required
127 voted in the affirmative
18 voted in the negative

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Beth Ann Matathia, Precinct 1, with respect to the sale and/or lease of the Reading Landfill, Town Meeting hereby instructs the Board of Selectmen to engage special outside counsel with expertise in commercial real estate and environmental matters to represent the Town in connection with the negotiation, documentation and implementation of a Purchase and Sale Agreement or, as appropriate, long term groundlease agreement.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Michael F. Slezak, Precinct 6, it was voted to move the question.

Motion by Beth Ann Matathia did not pass.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Robert R. Lynch, Precinct 6, to move to instruct the Board of Selectmen to have a second access to the Hawkes Field House area constructed so that traffic can arrive from one direction and exit via another. This second access would be used only during special events.

Motion does not carry.

Point of Personal Privilege by Virginia M. Adams, Precinct 2, to reflect on the good job done by the many volunteers, especially Paul Dustin, as Temporary Moderator.

ARTICLE 2 – On motion by Robert A. Brown, Precinct 6, to move that the School Committee investigate as part of the Dividence school traffic study:

1. Main entrance to proposed school from Roma Lane access.
2. One-way traffic through school during school opening and closing.
3. Exit through Fox Run Lane (one-way) with gate closed except during opening and closing hours.

The results of this investigation should be reported at the public hearing planned by the School Committee.

Motion does not carry.

ARTICLE 2 - On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was moved to place Article 2 on the table.

On motion by W. Bruce MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, it was voted that the Special Town Meeting stand adjourned sine die at 11:16 p.m.

165 Town Meeting Members were present.

A true copy. Attest

Cheryl A. Johnson
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
March 24, 1998

Pursuant to the Warrant and the Constable's Return thereon, a General Election was held for all eight precincts at the Hawkes Field House. The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion of Barbara L Takach, Warden, Precinct 1, it was voted to dispense with further reading of the Warrant except the Constable's Return, which was then read by the Town Clerk. The ballot boxes were examined by the respective Wardens and each found to be empty and registered at - 0 -.

The Town Clerk declared the polls open at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m., with the following results:

2,249 ballots (14.99 % of registered voters) cast as follows:

Moderator for one year - Vote for One

Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Alan E. Foulds*	263	135	144	211	169	242	271	310	1745
Other	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	8
Blanks	59	39	25	68	60	69	74	102	496
Total	322	174	169	280	230	313	346	415	2249
*Elected									

Board of Selectmen for three years - Vote for Two

Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
W. Bruce MacDonald*	235	122	122	197	168	238	247	280	1609
Matthew J. Nestor*	217	110	120	167	152	192	240	256	1454
Other	0	4	2	2	0	7	2	1	18
Blanks	192	112	94	194	140	189	203	293	1417
Total	644	348	338	560	460	626	692	830	4498
*Elected									

Board of Assessors for three Years - Vote for One

Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Mary S. (Mollie) Ziegler*	244	127	134	204	168	237	274	298	1686
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blanks	78	47	35	76	62	76	72	116	562
Total	322	174	169	280	230	313	346	415	2249
*Elected									

Board of Library Trustees for three years - Vote for Two									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Christine B. Redford*	211	114	128	209	149	211	232	264	1518
Donna Bramante InDelicato	132	69	64	94	90	102	154	156	861
Richard J. Ogden*	145	76	70	116	112	167	156	165	1001
Other	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Blanks	156	89	76	141	108	146	156	244	1116
Total	644	348	338	560	460	626	692	830	4498
*Elected									

Municipal Light Board for three years - Vote for Two									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
William J. Hughes, Jr.*	176	73	86	121	101	157	206	219	1141
Philip B. Pacino*	172	76	107	173	135	181	196	212	1252
Henry J. Boissoneau	71	53	50	48	65	63	68	64	482
Edward J. Foley	75	56	30	54	65	82	86	94	542
Other	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Blanks	150	90	62	164	94	142	136	241	1079
Total	644	348	338	560	460	626	692	830	4498
*Elected									

School Committee for three years - Vote for Two									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Roberta C. D'Antona*	173	81	77	151	103	155	168	191	1099
Harvey J. (Pete) Dahl*	209	82	62	135	116	174	209	283	1270
George C. (Chip) Hines	67	38	30	64	53	62	86	74	474
Mark W. Jackson	17	15	17	26	18	13	16	17	139
Robert L. Mandell	74	45	43	59	55	97	81	101	555
Jacalyn S. Wallace	57	41	61	57	60	61	72	59	468
Other	4	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	10
Blanks	43	46	46	68	55	63	57	105	483
Total	644	348	338	560	460	626	692	830	4498
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Herbert W. Converse*	216								216
William R. Grace*	217								217
Lorraine Horn*	232								232
Ellen Mounteer*	223								223
Thomas J. Ryan*	216								216
Mark L. Dockser*	10								10
Catherine S. Durant*	18								18
James K. Taylor*	17								17
Other	32								32
Blanks	1395								1395
Total	2576								2576
*Elected									

Town Meeting Member for two years - Vote for not more than One									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Barry K. Greenwood*	1								1
Other	13								13
Blanks	308								308
Total	322								322
*Elected									

Town Meeting Member for one year - Vote for not more than One									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Laura A. Wilson*	9								9
Other	7								7
Blanks	306								306
Total	322								322
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Francis P. Burke*		106							106
Marlene W. Cohen*		100							100
Stephen L. Crook*		102							102
Philip D. LeBlanc*		103							103
John E. Parsons III*		98							98
Anthony L. Rickley*		93							93
John F. Fallon, Jr.*		114							114
David A. Tanner*		111							111
Other		0							0
Blanks		565							565
Total		1392							1392
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for two years - Vote for not more than Two									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Bernice F. Svedlow*		112							112
Alice M. O'Sullivan*		2							2
Other		1							1
Blanks		233							233
Total		348							348
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Gerald L. MacDonald*			125						125
Robert J. Coffey*			116						116
William F. Lavoie*			115						115
John R. Casciano*			2						2
Bryan Hodgkins II*			5						5
Steven G. Oston*			2						2
Jacalyn S. Wallace*			7						7
Wendall T. Wallace*			6						6
Other			18						18
Blanks			956						956
Total			1352						1352
*Elected									

Town Meeting Member for one year - Vote for not more than One									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Daniel H. Ballou, Jr.*			1						1
Other			7						7
Blanks			161						161
Total			169						169
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Stephen M. Conner*				163					163
W. Bruce MacDonald*				181					181
Thomas J. Meharg*				153					153
Philip B. Pacino*				167					167
Robert S. Salter*				163					163
George A. Theophanis*				170					170
Timothy R. Twomey*				183					183
Randy S. Gearhart				119					119
David Lautman*				126					126
Other				3					3
Blanks				812					812
Total				2240					2240
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Brian A Broad*					126				126
Ruth L. Clay*					144				144
Eleanor K. Higgott*					136				136
Catherine R. Kaminer*					130				130
Paul A. Kelley*					146				146
Paul C. Dustin*					158				158
Timothy J. Kelley*					158				158
Henry J. Bardol, Jr.*					1				1
Other					8				8
Blanks					833				833
Total					1840				1840
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Jacqueline S. Chipman*						217			217
Kevin M. Douglas*						200			200
James J. Fandel*						210			210
Diana M. Kaine*						196			196
James A. Keigley*						196			196
Stephen P. Quigley*						211			211
William H. Watt*						194			194
Nathan C. White*						197			197
Robert L. Mandell						133			133
Other						3			3
Blanks						747			747
Total						2504			2504
*Elected									

Town Meeting Member for one year - Vote for not more than One									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Frances P. Crann*						209			209
Other						0			0
Blanks						104			104
Total						313			313
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
John J. Greichen, Jr*.							215		215
Gary M. Nihan*							252		252
Patrick S. Sudbay*							225		225
David M. Swyter*							227		227
Joanne T. Cusolito*							223		223
Nancy B. Matheson*							222		222
John E. Carpenter*							57		57
Charles A. Smith*							5		5
Other							18		18
Blanks							1324		1324
Total							2768		2768
*Elected									

Town Meeting Members for three years - Vote for not more than Eight									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
William C. Brown*								226	226
Harvey J. (Pete) Dahl*								317	317
George B. Perry, II*								225	225
John H. Russell*								232	232
Margaret W. Russell*								231	231
Frederick Van Magness*								221	221
Kendra J. G. Cooper								194	194
Marjorie C. O'Donnell*								222	222
Bernice H. Pierce*								197	197
Other								6	6
Blanks								1249	1249
Total								3320	3320
*Elected									

Town Meeting Member for two years - Vote for not more than One									
Candidate	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
William J. Griset, Jr.								140	140
Pasquale M. Iapicca*								198	198
Other								1	1
Blanks								76	76
Total								415	415
*Elected									

Question No. 1: "Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year 1997, entitled "An Act authorizing the Town of Reading to issue licenses to certain establishments for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the Premises" be accepted?"

	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Yes	215	106	105	190	153	192	227	254	1442
No	81	50	45	57	41	93	67	119	553
Blanks	26	18	19	33	36	28	52	42	254
Total	322	174	169	280	230	313	346	415	2249

Question No. 2: "Shall this Town approve the amendment to the Reading Home Rule Charter proposed by vote of Town Meeting Members on November 10, 1997 under Article 7 of the Subsequent Town Meeting Warrant which would amend Article 5 of the Charter relating to the Town Manager by adding the phrase "(and except as expressly authorized by the Board of Selectmen)" after the phrase "to the office, in the third sentence of the second paragraph of Section 5-1 so that sentence shall read: "During his term, he shall devote full time to the office, (and except as expressly authorized by the Board of Selectmen) shall not engage in any other business or occupation, and (except as expressly provided in the Charter) shall not hold any other public office, elective or appointive, in the Town,"?

	Pr 1	Pr 2	Pr 3	Pr 4	Pr 5	Pr 6	Pr 7	Pr 8	Total
Yes	213	120	105	170	140	212	220	261	1441
No	69	31	41	62	42	48	51	88	432
Blanks	40	23	23	48	48	53	75	66	376
Total	322	174	169	280	230	313	346	415	2249

a true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson, Town Clerk

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

September 15, 1998

Pursuant to the Warrant and the constable's Return thereon, a State Primary Election was held for all eight precincts at the Hawkes Field House. The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion of Harold Hulse, Precinct 2 , it was voted to dispense with the further reading of the Warrant, except the Constable's Return, which was then read by the Town Clerk. The ballot boxes were examined by the respective Wardens and each found to be empty and registered at 000.

The Town Clerk declared the polls open at 7:00 A.M. and closed at 8:00 P.M., with the following results:

2,446 Democratic Votes
1,522 Republican Votes
1 Reform Vote

3,969 ballots (26.2% of registered voters) cast as follows:

BALLOT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

GOVERNOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Brian J. Donnelly	40	37	35	35	29	46	40	11	35	308
Scott Harshbarger *	181	126	118	162	152	145	167	44	143	1238
Patricia McGovern	113	95	101	106	102	108	93	30	88	836
All Others	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blanks	5	13	8	5	7	8	4	1	12	63
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Dorothy A. Kelly Gay	139	123	106	118	107	121	118	37	115	984
Warren E. Tolman *	146	99	113	129	136	144	127	35	115	1044
All Others	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Blanks	53	49	43	62	46	42	59	14	48	416
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Lois G. Pines	146	126	115	115	124	116	130	33	85	990
Thomas F. Reilly *	182	139	140	179	157	182	158	52	183	1372
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	11	6	7	15	9	9	15	1	10	83
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
William Francis Galvin *	240	198	197	214	194	224	224	57	195	1743
All Others	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Blanks	99	71	64	95	96	83	80	29	83	700
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

TREASURER (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Shannon P. O'Brien *	230	183	196	208	186	227	213	58	181	1682
All Others	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Blanks	109	86	65	101	103	80	91	28	97	760
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

AUDITOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
A. Joseph DeNucci *	240	197	195	212	199	233	218	56	195	1745
All Others	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Blanks	99	72	65	97	90	74	86	30	83	696
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
John F. Tierney *	272								219	491
David A. Francoeur	34								29	63
All Others	0								0	0
Blanks	33								30	63
Total	339								278	617
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (7th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Edward J. Markey *		210	205	234	221	239	231	61		1401
All Others		2	1	0	2	0	0	0		5
Blanks		59	56	75	67	68	73	25		423
Total		271	262	309	290	307	304	86		1829
* Elected										

COUNCILLOR (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Michael J. Callahan	33	33	32	34	32	45	35	8	29	281
Edward T. Donohoe	34	36	42	41	48	41	29	7	43	321
Francis X. Flaherty	25	23	20	12	23	16	18	9	13	159
Vincent A. LoPresti *	67	46	48	32	36	47	47	14	50	387
Terry McGinty	10	6	3	11	4	17	18	4	11	84
Suzanne Merullo	16	15	13	17	13	10	18	2	13	117
Daniel P. O'Neil	3	7	3	2	5	4	6	1	5	36
Mark Rotondo	5	5	6	7	5	5	2	2	4	41
Jeffrey Travaline	39	31	16	42	30	38	36	10	30	272
Patricia White	32	20	27	28	21	26	21	12	25	212
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	75	49	52	83	73	58	74	17	55	536
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2,446
* Elected										

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (3rd Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others	1	3	2	3	2	3	1	0	0	15
Blanks	338	268	260	306	288	304	303	86	278	2431
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (21st Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others	1	1		4		4	1	0	1	12
Blanks	338	270		305		303	303	86	277	1882
Total	339	271		309		307	304	86	278	1894
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (34th Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Paul C. Casey *			180		180					360
All Others			1		1					2
Blanks			81		109					190
Total			262		290					552
* Elected										

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Northern District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Martha Coakley *	180	140	132	188	158	188	164	45	172	1,367
Timothy R. Flaherty	48	46	51	43	54	58	44	18	28	390
Michael A. Sullivan	82	66	64	59	55	47	72	17	53	515
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	29	19	15	19	23	14	24	6	25	174
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2,446
* Elected										

SHERIFF (Middlesex County) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
James V. DiPaola *	205	141	152	183	149	181	175	47	167	1400
Edward J. Kennedy, Jr.	80	91	72	65	89	85	75	25	67	649
All Others	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blanks	54	39	38	59	52	41	54	14	44	395
Total	339	271	262	309	290	307	304	86	278	2446
* Elected										

BALLOT OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

GOVERNOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Argeo Paul Cellucci *	120	86	83	124	93	118	94	25	87	830
Joseph D. Malone	88	76	83	93	73	74	78	18	81	664
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Blanks	1	1	4	3	4	4	5	1	4	27
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Janet E. Jeghelian *	101	78	88	110	82	88	95	18	80	740
Jane Maria Swift	88	72	71	98	77	90	73	23	77	669
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	20	13	11	12	11	19	9	3	15	113
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Brad Bailey *	162	119	125	179	139	154	141	32	134	1185
All Others	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Blanks	47	44	45	40	31	43	35	12	38	335
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Dale C. Jenkins, Jr. *	137	112	114	160	125	141	130	31	126	1076
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	72	51	56	60	45	56	47	13	46	446
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

TREASURER (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Robert A. Maginn *	134	105	116	158	121	138	129	26	121	1048
All Others	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Blanks	75	57	53	62	49	58	47	18	51	470
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

AUDITOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Michael T. Duffy *	130	105	113	154	118	136	125	25	117	1023
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	79	58	57	66	52	61	51	19	55	498
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Paul McCarthy	75								57	132
Peter G. Torkildsen *	115								111	226
All Others	0								0	0
Blanks	19								4	23
Total	209								172	381
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (7th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Patricia H. Long *		109	111	166	123	148	127	28		812
All Others		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Blanks		54	59	54	47	49	50	16		329
Total		163	170	220	170	197	177	44		1141
* Elected										

COUNCILLOR (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others	4	1	3	2	2	0	2	0	1	15
Blanks	205	162	167	218	168	197	175	44	171	1507
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (3rd Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Richard R. Tisei *	169	134	134	190	147	167	145	31	147	1264
All Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	40	29	36	30	23	30	32	13	25	258
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (21st Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Bradley H. Jones, Jr. *	167	135		198		172	149	33	149	1003
All Others	0	0		0		0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	42	28		22		25	27	11	23	178
Total	209	163		220		197	177	44	172	1182
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (34th Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
William O'Leary *			2		1					3
All Others			0		0					0
Blanks			168		169					337
Total			170		170					340
* Elected										

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Northern District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Lee Johnson *	136	100	109	151	113	130	131	27	123	1,020
All Others	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blanks	73	63	60	69	57	67	46	17	49	501
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1,522
* Elected										

SHERIFF (Middlesex County) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others	6	3	1	2	1	1	4	0	1	19
Blanks	203	160	169	218	169	196	173	44	171	1503
Total	209	163	170	220	170	197	177	44	172	1522
* Elected										

BALLOT OF THE REFORM PARTY

GOVERNOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

TREASURER (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

AUDITOR (Vote for One)										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (7th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

COUNCILLOR (6th District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT (3rd Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (21st Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

REP IN GENERAL COURT (34th Middlesex District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Northern District) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

SHERIFF (Middlesex County) - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
No Candidate										
All Others						0				0
Blanks						1				1
Total						1				1
* Elected										

A true copy. Attest:

Cheryl A. Johnson, Town Clerk

STATE ELECTION
November 3, 1998

Pursuant to the Warrant and the Constable's Return thereon, a State Election was held for all eight precincts at the Hawkes Field House. The Warrant was partially read by the Town Clerk, Cheryl A. Johnson, when on motion of Harold Hulse, Precinct 2 , it was voted to dispense with the further reading of the Warrant, except the Constable's Return, which was then read by the Town Clerk. The ballot boxes were examined by the respective Wardens and each found to be empty and registered at 000.

The Town Clerk declared the polls open at 7:00 A.M. and closed at 8:00 P.M., with the following results:

9,143 ballots (60% of registered voters) cast as follows:

GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Cellucci and Swift	686	562	527	654	514	654	576	215	566	4954
Harshbarger and Tolman	488	462	447	525	441	493	497	146	398	3897
Cook and Israel	23	13	30	15	32	18	15	4	19	169
All Others	0	2	1	1	4	6	3	0	1	18
Blanks	10	17	11	10	14	18	12	6	7	105
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

ATTORNEY GENERAL - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Brad Bailey	496	432	393	491	391	478	421	150	367	3619
Thomas F. Reilly	676	591	595	674	586	676	651	209	592	5250
All Others	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	8
Blanks	34	32	26	39	28	34	30	12	31	266
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

SECRETARY OF STATE - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
William F. Galvin	729	693	645	734	647	733	717	211	600	5709
Dale C. Jenkins Jr.	364	271	290	357	274	348	282	127	304	2617
David L. Atkinson	41	33	37	35	32	35	34	9	27	283
All Others	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Blanks	72	59	44	78	52	73	69	24	60	531
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

TREASURER - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Bob Maginn	527	417	400	525	402	499	453	154	442	3819
Shannon P. O'Brien	583	560	527	572	526	589	567	179	470	4573
Merton B. Baker	21	23	31	21	22	31	19	5	19	192
All Others	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
Blanks	74	56	58	86	55	70	64	32	59	554
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

AUDITOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
A. Joseph DeNucci	653	637	568	655	575	661	618	194	550	5111
Michael T. Duffy	410	317	322	422	326	387	373	125	325	3007
Carla A. Howell	69	48	77	55	54	73	39	19	53	487
All Others	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Blanks	74	54	49	73	50	67	73	33	63	536
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

REP IN CONGRESS 6TH DIST. - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
John F. Tierney	580								482	1062
Peter G. Torkildsen	572								464	1036
Randal C. Fritz	25								25	50
All Others	0								0	0
Blanks	30								20	50
Total	1207								991	2198

REP IN CONGRESS 7TH DIST. - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Edward J. Markey		683	614	721	649	730	698	211		4306
Patricia H. Long		338	372	427	328	416	365	146		2392
All Others		1	0	0	1	2	0	0		4
Blanks		34	30	57	27	41	40	14		243
Total		1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371		6945

COUNCILLOR - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Michael J. Callahan	744	686	661	713	633	765	721	230	602	5755
All Others	2	7	3	3	4	2	2	0	2	25
Blanks	461	363	352	489	368	422	380	141	387	3363
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Richard R. Tisei	919	790	729	886	717	891	788	245	715	6680
All Others	5	4	4	5	3	3	9	0	2	35
Blanks	283	262	283	314	285	295	306	126	274	2428
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

REP IN GENERAL COURT - 21ST MIDDLESEX - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	884	771		856		863	778	246	722	5120
All Others	2	4		7		6	8	0	1	28
Blanks	321	281		342		320	317	125	268	1974
Total	1207	1056		1205		1189	1103	371	991	7122

REP IN GENERAL COURT - 34th MIDDLESEX - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Paul C. Casey			585		588					1173
William B. O'Leary			340		337					677
All Others			0		0					0
Blanks			91		80					171
Total			1016		1005					2021

DISTRICT ATTORNEY - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Martha Coakley	685	638	640	704	619	732	698	203	618	5537
Lee Johnson	422	344	311	406	308	379	325	131	301	2927
All Others	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Blanks	99	73	65	95	78	77	79	37	72	675
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

SHERIFF - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
James V. DiPaola	762	716	669	740	649	785	717	234	621	5893
All Others	3	2	3	5	6	3	5	0	2	29
Blanks	442	338	344	460	350	401	381	137	368	3221
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

NORTHEAST REG. VOKE - READING - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Robert S. McCarthy	423	382	375	514	336	408	371	118	356	3283
Marjorie T. Pacino	587	515	479	498	504	594	528	181	462	4348
All Others	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
Blanks	197	158	162	193	165	187	201	72	172	1507
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

NORTHEAST REG. VOKE - WOBURN - Vote for One										
Candidate	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Deborah P. Davis	699	643	621	635	571	699	618	206	546	5238
All Others	1	0	1	2	3	1	3	1	5	17
Blanks	507	413	394	568	431	489	482	164	440	3888
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

QUESTION 1: SETTING COMPENSATION OF STATE LEGISLATORS

	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Yes	780	721	653	761	665	789	743	216	638	5966
No	354	271	297	385	288	353	297	112	308	2665
Blanks	73	64	66	59	52	47	63	43	45	512
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

QUESTION 2: PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING

	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Yes	696	674	612	717	648	738	686	204	587	5562
No	404	289	324	415	287	366	323	124	338	2870
Blanks	107	93	80	73	70	85	94	43	66	711
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

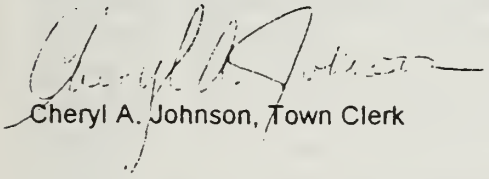
QUESTION 3: TAX RATE ON INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME

	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Yes	975	830	808	1001	780	956	869	270	800	7289
No	146	143	140	132	146	167	147	67	133	1221
Blanks	86	83	68	72	79	66	87	34	58	633
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

QUESTION 4: ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

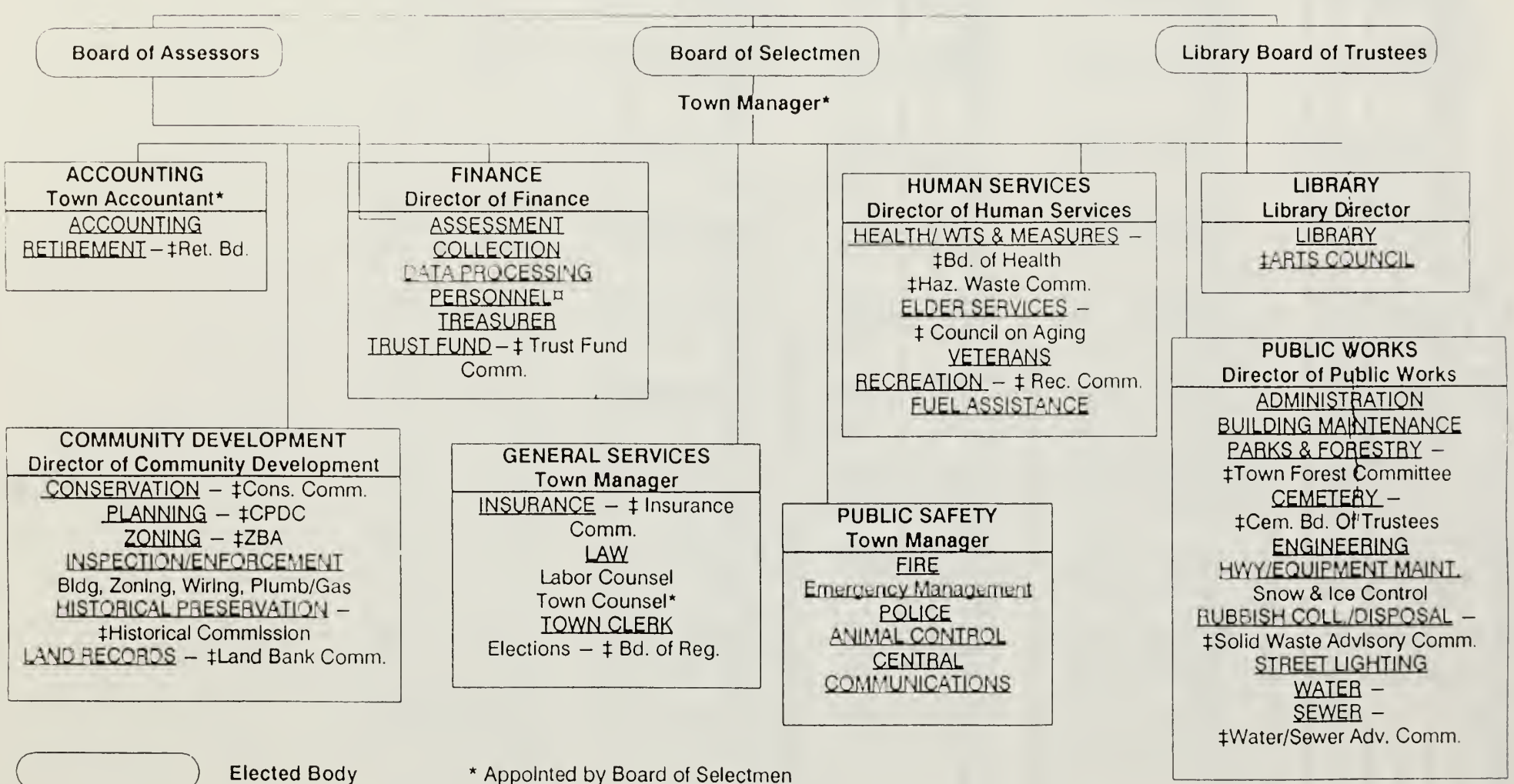
	Pct 1	Pct 2	Pct 3	Pct 4	Pct 5	Pct 6	Pct 7	Pct 8A	Pct 8B	Total
Yes	746	654	632	764	615	716	707	233	636	5703
No	396	349	333	389	333	407	324	102	317	2950
Blanks	65	53	51	52	57	66	72	36	38	490
Total	1207	1056	1016	1205	1005	1189	1103	371	991	9143

A true copy. Attest:



Cheryl A. Johnson, Town Clerk

Town of Reading, Massachusetts
Plan of Organization - Executive Branch Spring 1992



Elected Body

DEPARTMENT
Department Head

* Appointed by Board of Selectmen per charter

XXXXXXX = Division

‡ – Policymaking body which may exercise authority per statute or other regulations, and which is appointed in accordance with state law, charter, or other regulation. The bodies determine policy under the general direction of the Board of Selectmen. Administrative direction is provided by the Department Head, or the Town Manager in absence of Department Head.

¤ Note: Town Manager retains ultimate responsibility for the Personnel function pursuant to Section 5-2 of the Reading Home Rule Charter.

Adopted April 21, 1992 by vote of Town Meeting under Article 26

READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Mission Statement:

The role of the Reading Public Library is to make readily available library materials selected in response to both the diverse reading and educational needs of all community members; to offer youth an active library program designed to stress the value of reading and communicating; to deliver information which meets community needs and to vigorously promote the use of library services and thereby increase public awareness of the Library in the community.

From the Director:

I'd like to share with you, the residents of the Town, some of the highlights of 1998 because all of our programs and services are designed to fulfill and further our mission.

The Bibliobites Café opened in the Summer of 1997 to the delight of staff and customers. We saw the Café as a truly "value-added service" that would enhance customers' library experiences. By the end of 1998, the staff, Trustees and Friends felt that while the café was successful in many ways, it could still be better. So, while the Café is currently on hiatus, the Friends, who sponsor it, are working with the staff and looking into ways to expand and relocate, and we are getting lots of helpful suggestions from customers!

Internet classes, classes and more classes were taught by every Librarian on the staff during 1998, to all ages and abilities. Kids and parents, beginner adults and advanced, and senior citizens partook of classes on special topics such as investments or travel, or just the general use of the Internet. This is a new and important service in the Library, and has been a spontaneous product of the public's need to be able to navigate the Internet successfully, their view that the Library is the best place to get these skills, and our professional expertise in teaching information literacy.

Summer reading programs are always a highlight of the Library's year, and 1998 was no exception. "Partners in Crime" was the summer theme, with kids reading to "Get a Clue @the Library" while adults and young adults joined "A Reading Club of Titanic Proportions" in order to solve "The Case of the Missing Necklace." (Yes, even the Library got into the "Titanic" act.) Statistics tell the success story for all three programs: In the Children's Room alone 1,366 kids read for 12,500 hours and 4,000 kids attended 48 programs. 175 young adults read 643 books, while 90 adults read 553 books and competed for a grand prize of a Boston Harbor tour.

These weren't the only programs we offered, not by a long shot. We're always experimenting with new ideas, trying to find new ways to please our reading public. Book discussion groups have experienced a revival in popularity in recent years, particularly since Oprah Winfrey began her Book Club. In 1998, the Library offered three different discussion groups. The Junior Book Club, for kids under 13, met monthly and shared lunch and lively discussions. A similar group for adults met Wednesday evenings. "Word of Mouth" is a different kind of discussion group, where attendees discuss books they have recently read and recommend them to others present. All three groups are open to all and welcome new members.

Our children's librarians are among the most innovative in the State so they're always trying out new programs. They also have a growing clientele as the number of pre-school and school-age children has increased tremendously over the past few years. They began offering the Toddler Sing-Along on the first Fridays of each month, and met with truly overwhelming success! We have had to institute stroller traffic controls in order to accommodate all attendees. The total attendance over the year for this program was an amazing 2,500.

Another highly successful program for young kids is the "Mother Goose Lapsit" for infants and their caregivers. It's always especially rewarding to see grandparents as well as dads and moms enjoying these wonderful programs with their kids and grandkids.

The most amazing Library statistics of 1998 belong to the Children's Room: Program attendance increased 50% in 1998, up from 9,983 children in 1997 to 14,932, and audiobook circulation increased 264% in 1998.

What would we do without our volunteers? is a question we ask ourselves regularly. In 1998, more than 30 volunteers did such diverse jobs for the Library as repair books and videotapes, index newspapers, deliver books to the homebound, organize tax forms, maintain the used book sale room, make sure the books are in order on the shelves, and do word processing or computer work to assist in various library tasks.

A cooperative project with the Reading YMCA was a brand new venture in 1998. The YMCA received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to offer adult basic education and English-as-a-second-language classes to Reading residents in need of them. An advisory group of many community agencies worked with the YMCA to identify those in need and to set up the classes. The Library played an important role in this grant project as it is the place for literacy as well as information literacy. We hope to receive several PCs from the grant, which will enable us to set up a computer lab so that we can teach Internet classes more effectively and without interruptions to regular library service.

The Paperback Bestseller Display was, I have to admit, my personal favorite innovation. The display area, located in a wonderfully cozy space under the clock in the main lobby, is a perfect way to make readers aware of current paperback bestsellers.

Nonprint formats such as videos, audiobooks and CD's are among the most popular items in the Library. In 1998, we were finally able to give them the space they need and deserve in a redecorated area of the basement. If you haven't visited it yet, you don't know what you're missing!

Staff Development Day was a first time event at the Reading Public Library. Never before had the entire staff had the opportunity to meet together long enough to discuss the Library's present and especially its future. Doing this required closing the Library for part of a day. We thank the public for understanding the importance of this event, and hope to do it annually from now on.

The focus of the day was "what will the Library be like in 10 years? What will success look like?" As we continue to evaluate the findings, we'll be discussing with the community our plans for the future.

Doris Kearns Goodwin's visit to the Library was undoubtedly one of the year's highlights, and is a glowing example of the stellar programs offered by the Reading Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Reading Public Library. We don't know how we would get along without them! Ms. Goodwin's talk drew hundreds of people to the High School Auditorium, and to a lovely reception afterwards at the Library. Attendees were thrilled at the chance to talk with Ms. Goodwin, and have their books signed by her. The question of the evening was: "this event was wonderful – when is the next one?" We're planning it right now!

Finally, the entire Library family was deeply saddened by the death of longtime Library Trustee Robert Fields. Bob had served on the Board since the 1960s, and was a devoted supporter and advocate of the Library as well as a voracious reader. He is sorely missed. Bill Diamond, another long time Trustee with 41 years of service, retired from the Board but we are happy we can still call on his legal acuity when we need it. We were delighted to welcome new Trustees Donna Indelicato, new to the Board and to Reading and Dick Ogden, a valued friend and former selectman.

Believe it or not, 1998 was the fifteenth year the Library has lived in the Highland School building. When the building was renovated in 1983, it was planned to meet the 20 year Library needs of the community, and it has done so spectacularly. But as we enter the five year home stretch, we have to start thinking about the next 20 years. Accordingly, at the end of 1998, we began what may have been our most important task of the year: A revision of the Library's long range plan which will chart the course of the Library into the new millennium. A Planning Committee made up of Library trustees, staff and community members will spend 1999 looking at the needs of the community, the Library's role in meeting those needs, and what needs to be done to make sure the Library can fulfill that role.

This is just the tip of the iceberg (No "Titanic" joke intended) of all the exciting things that happen at the Library throughout the year. You'll have to visit us to get the whole story!

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre Hanley, Director

Fiscal Year 1998 Statistics: A Snapshot

	Adult	Children	Combined
Customers with RPL Library Cards			22,840
Visitors to the Library			224,671
Reference Questions	30,299	12,332	42,631
Circulation to Non-Residents			52,671
Print Circulation (Books, Magazines)	157,842	105,798	263,640
Nonprint Circulation (Videos, Audiobooks, CD's, Records, Cassettes)	46,508	15,327	61,835
TOTAL CIRCULATION	204,350	121,125	325,475

Board of Library Trustees:

Ms. Maria Silvaggi, Chairperson
Mr. Stephen Conner, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Christine Redford, Secretary
Ms. Cherrie Dubois
Ms. Donna Bramante InDelicato
Mr. Richard J. Ogden

Personnel:

Director - Deirdre Hanley
Assistant Director - Diane Young
Administrative Secretary - Nancy Smethurst

Reference Division:

Division Head - Kimberly S. Lynn
Adult Services Librarian - Nancy Aberman
Elder Services and Local History Librarian - Sally McDonald
Young Adult Librarians - Lorraine Barry, Susan Beauregard
Promotional Services Librarian - Kathleen Miksis
Librarians - Bridget Rawding, Ewa E. Jankowska, Esmé Green, Richard Poisson, Sheri Kelley

Technical Services:

Division Head - Michael Colford
Senior Technician - Allison DaSilva
Inter-Library Loan
Technician - Theresa M. Campbell

Circulation Division:

Division Head - Dorothy Alworth
Technicians - Theresa C. Boudette, Dawn Didham Colford, Maureen Conwell, Elizabeth P. Davidson, Madeleine Gillis, Patricia K. Kelly, Jean Krogh, Mary Jo Nordstrom, Patrice A. O'Donnell, Eileen Malley, Geraldine Pothier
Pages - Mike Ensminger, Lynne Gauthier, Nancy Hunt, Danielle Kimerer, Karawan Kouki, Kathryn Powalisz, Michael Shagoury, Justin Stempeck, Lois Tulikangas

Children's Room:

Division Head - Corinne Fisher
Children's Librarians - Brenda Wettergreen, Rachel Baumgartner, Lori Stalteri
Library Associates - Mary McIntire
Pages - Michael Atkinson, Stephanie Bejtlich, Judy A. Newton, Andrea Webber

Custodian – John Davis

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire activity in Reading increased slightly in 1998. There were three large loss fires in residences -- one on Washington Street, one on Salem Street and the third was on Main Street. All three fires were kept from becoming total losses due to the quick response and rapid extinguishment of the on-duty fire crews.

Today's modern Fire Department must be capable of delivering a multitude of emergency and non-emergency services to the community. During the past year, this Department responded to 20 fires in residences, 30 automobile fires, 26 brush fires, 48 calls for natural gas problems, 46 calls for electrical problems, 8 dumpster fires, 31 oil burner malfunctions and 35 calls for lockouts. In addition, there were 115 calls for mutual aid ambulance response from other communities. We also received 105 mutual aid ambulance responses from other communities.

This Department provided mutual aid fire assistance during 1998 as required by agreement. There were 81 requests for mutual aid from eight different communities. The Reading Fire Department conducted over 771 inspections which included 26 fire alarm systems, 403 residential smoke detector operation, 132 oil burner installations, 16 liquid propane installations, and over 194 inspections of schools, nursing homes, construction sites and other miscellaneous inspections. Along with these, there were 89 underground oil storage tanks removed for a total of 64,800 gallons. This ongoing program needs constant oversight to help in protecting the water supply in our community.

The School Fire Prevention and Education Program continues to be an important part of the mission of this Department. Again, this Department made a successful grant application to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts S.A.F.E. Program. The grant is in the amount of $4,465, which is once again less than the previous year. This is a decrease from the high of $8,500 that we received in the first year of the program; it will, however, allow us to continue this very worthwhile program.

Last year, S.A.F.E. educators from this Department made 31 classroom visits, which allowed them to deliver the anti-smoking/fire prevention message to over 822 elementary school students. The Fire Safety House Trailer was used for most of these visits. This allowed the instructors to present a very real in-home fire scenario to the students. Along with the in-school programs, the S.A.F.E. educators were able to reach another 1,262 adults and children through community presentations, Health Fairs, the Fire Department Open House and Fire Station tours. The feedback from the public shows that this program has been successful in promoting the anti-smoking/fire safety message.

Much is unknown about the future of construction projects in the community. The Fire Prevention office has worked with architectural firms representing the Police Station, Coolidge Middle School and the YMCA construction projects. This Department is preparing itself for additional projects such as the Barrows School addition and the development of the Reading Business Park. These projects, along with the reconstruction of the Downtown area include both roadways and substantial buildings that require constant monitoring to ensure the safety of all Reading's citizens.

A number of major construction projects have been completed or are nearing completion in the community. These projects have been monitored by the Fire Prevention Office for fire code compliance. Through the diligent efforts of the Assistant Chief, many new and remodeled commercial buildings have been tied into the municipal fire alarm system. This will allow for a more rapid emergency response notification. Along with this program, the Fire Prevention Office is also now requiring the installation of a Knox Box on new or remodeled commercial establishments. This will allow more rapid entry into the buildings upon arrival at an emergency.

In 1998, our Emergency Medical Coordinator, Lt. Paul Guarino, continued his bi-monthly BLS Case Review Program which has assisted in enhancing the quality of care given by members of this Department. Courses provided by Lt. Guarino this year include BLS Protocols, The Law and EMS and the Reading Municipal Light Department conducted an "Electrical Fire Safety" class.

We continue to provide recertification classes in semi-automatic defibrillation and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. All department personnel members participate in these and other intense training programs which enables them to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Members of this Department, under the direction of Firefighter/EMT David Roy, have conducted 15 Community CPR courses allowing 141 Reading citizens and employees to become CPR certified. Courses were conducted for personnel at the Department of Public Works, the Reading Municipal Light Department, the Reading School Department as well as a number of Community CPR courses for residents. The Department also provided three choke-saver classes to restaurant workers and business owners.

Training classes for firefighters were conducted by numerous outside agencies as well as our in-house training staff. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy provided training classes in Explosives and Blasting Safety Requirements and Recognition and Identification of Hazardous Materials. MIIA conducted a class entitled "Coping with Change." A professional training company conducted an in-depth technical rescue training class. This class consisted of 40 hours of instruction and was a joint effort including not only this Department but also the Wakefield Fire Department, the Wakefield Municipal Light Department and the Reading Municipal Light Department. All Department members were trained in high angle and confined space rescue. This training has resulted in a much better working relationship with these other Departments as well as a substantial amount of technical training previously unavailable.

The Department also provided a "Fire Department Operations:" Training class for all Public Safety Dispatchers. Lt. Paul Guarino and Captain Greg Burns developed the curriculum for this class. Lt. Paul Jackson joined with the two previously mentioned officers to provide a highly concentrated program to instruct dispatchers, who have to remain at their desk, as to the operations that go on at an emergency and how they interact with these operations.

This Department was significantly impacted by a major storm in the month of June that dropped many inches of water on our region in a very short time. On June 13th, firefighters responded to 51 calls for water pumping services, 7 ambulance calls and 4 calls for electrical problems caused by the storm.

The following day, there were 20 additional calls for water pumping, 4 ambulance calls, a significant oil spill and a call for a fire in a Salvation Army Collection box. All in all, it was a very heavy impact on this Department.

In March of this year, two firefighters were appointed to fill vacancies that occurred in 1997. Lisa Palermo and Michael Wood were selected to fill these vacancies. Greg Burns's status within the Department was changed from Provisional Captain to permanent Captain upon receipt of the test results from the Department of Personnel Administration.

The Fire Alarm system in Reading remains in excellent condition. The care and maintenance given to this system by our two dedicated Fire Alarm repairmen is responsible for this condition. New and remodeled commercial buildings have been tied into this system allowing more rapid response in the event of a fire emergency.

The Emergency Management function of this Department continues to require a significant amount of time and attention. During January and February, the finishing touches were put on the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and in February, the plan was submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for approval. As of December 31st, the plan had not yet been approved.

We continue to work with MEMA and FEMA in order to fulfill requirements. Although the Emergency Management Plan has not been approved, it was used quite effectively by this Department during the month of May. As the result of a transformer explosion at Longwood Place at 75 Pearl Street, the facility was left without electrical power. Due to the needs of the occupants, it was decided to evacuate the property. Over 70 residents were evacuated from this location and transported to the safety of the Senior Center or to the home of relatives for the duration of this emergency. Seven Reading agencies, along with private and mutual aid agencies and Reading citizens, assisted the Reading Fire Department in this operation. The removal and subsequent return of the occupants was very successful and the residents were most appreciative of the minimal disruption to their lives. All who participated in this operation received much praise for a job well done.

During 1998, the Reading Fire Department Capital Plan allowed for completion of the Opti-com Traffic Control System throughout the community.

Statistics for 1998:

Permit Fees Collected	$17,208.00
Ambulance Fees Collected	$186,321.79
Bell Alarms	470
Still Alarms	1812
Emergency Ambulance Calls	1480
Inspections	771

FIRE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

CHIEF:
Donald L. Wood

ASSISTANT CHIEF:
John T. Mooney

CAPTAINS:
Stephen A. Ballou
Gregory J. Burns
Kenneth N. Campbell Jr.
Gordon E. Sargent

LIEUTENANTS:
William F. Campbell
Paul F. Guarino
Paul D. Jackson
Peter L. Marchetti

FIREFIGHTERS:

Anthony J. Gentile	Richard A. Puopolo	James M. Hennessy
James A. Stevenson	Michael K. Holmes	Stephen K. Murphy
Roger C. Quimby	Perry M. Raffi	Michael Belmonte
Arthur H. Vars	David M. Roy	Robert J. Jutras
Philip G. Dole	Robert McCarthy	David A. Robidoux
David C. Bishop	Mark F. Dwyer	Anthony DelSignore
Francis P. Driscoll	Patrick Wallace	David Gentile
Philip B. Boisvert	Brian D. Ryan	William Van Horn
Matthew McSheehy	David T. Ballou	Richard L.S. Nelson
Daniel W. Cahoon	Stephen Pelrine	Lisa Palermo
Stephen W. Lewko	Robert L. Beck	Michael Wood

Wayne J. Bell, Mechanic
Cynthia M. Keenan, Secretary
Peter Vincent, Fire Alarm

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Reading Police Department consists of forty-one members at the end of December, 1998. The Chief, three Lieutenants, one Lieutenant Detective, one Sergeant Detective, six Sergeants, three Detectives, one Safety Officer, one Armorer, one D.A.R.E. Officer and twenty-three Patrol Officers.

The Ceremonial ground breaking of the new Police Station on Union Street took place on November 21, 1998.

We currently have seven full-time dispatchers and seven part-time dispatchers.

Along with the Community Policing Academy, directed by Lt. Michael Cloonan, there has also been instituted a Student Citizen Police Academy. The Reading Police Department received a grant for this program, and it has been well accepted within the Community. There are classes given in Domestic Violence, Dispatch Procedures, Community Policing, Accident Investigation, Patrol Procedures, D.W.I. arrests, Firearms, Fingerprinting and other related law enforcement topics.

Sgt. Detective William Keefe and Detective David Saunders retired in June of this year. Sgt. Patrick O'Brien became Sgt. Detective O'Brien in June, Officer Francis Duclos became Sgt. Duclos in June, and Officer James Cormier became Sgt. Cormier in September. We hired five new officers, Alan Perkins and Joseph Belmonte who graduated in July of 1998, and Michael Nickerson, Michael Lee and Thomas Murphy who will graduate in March of 1999.

D.A.R.E. Officer Leone Sullivan sponsored a Basketball Game Fundraiser for D.A.R.E. with the Harlem Rockets vs. Reading Police and Faculty on March 26 -- over 500 people attended.

R.A.D. successfully completed a class for 20 young women mostly High School Seniors at Austin Prep.

The Reading and Wakefield Police Departments sponsored a Motor Vehicle Glass Etching Program in conjunction with the Governor's Auto Theft Strike Force -- 114 cars participated in the program.

On June 27th, Lt. Robbins participated in the "KID ID Program" with several officers at the Summerfest.

Members of the Police Department held a Ham and Bean Supper for the Senior Citizens.

The 17th Annual Holiday Party was held at Austin Prep on Sunday, December 20, 1998 and 500 people attended.

The Detective Division implemented procedures for the State's new Sex Offender Registry Law. This law requires sex offenders living within the community to register with the local Police Department. The law requires filing forms, taking photographs, and fingerprints and submitting offender's information to the Criminal History Systems Board.

The Honor Guard has attended many functions this year and continues to be well received wherever it appears.

Complementing our regular Police Department is our force of School Traffic Guards, under the direction of Safety Officer Joseph Veno. These Crossing Guards, who supervise the crossing of children on their way to and from school at various locations about Town, have proved to be devoted to their duties and are great assets to the Town.

Lt. Patterson and Detective Pacunas attended and testified at the three week murder trial of Edward Donahue. On May 4, 1998, Edward Donahue was convicted of first degree murder of Elaine Donahue. On May 5, 1998, he was sentenced to life without parole at MCI Cedar Junction.

On June 15th, Lt. Patterson traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to return prisoner David Jones to Reading for the charge of murder of Robin Gilbert.

On June 25th, Lt. Robbins, Lt. Cloonan, Chief Marchand, Officers Iappica and David Clark with the Town Manager Peter Hechenbleikner attended the Community Policing Award which was held at Saint Anselm's College where the Reading Police received the Robert J. Trojanowicz Award. This award was given to Reading for its Outstanding Community Policing efforts.

On October 25th, Lt. Patterson received the Legion of Merit Award, and D.A.R.E. Officer Leone Sullivan received the Community Service Award. This award was given by the Italian American Police Officer's Association at the Wonderland Ballroom in Revere, MA.

Lt. Robbins gave a crime prevention presentation with Lois Bond to the Reading Business and Professional Women's Club in Woburn.

On June 1st, the Third Annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament was held at the Hillview Country Club -- they had thirty sponsors who raised $3,000.

The following are the arrests and services performed in 1998:

Arrests: 250
Persons held in Protective Custody: 37
Motor Vehicle Violations: 5,969
Parking Violations: 2,370
Juveniles Apprehended: 2
Detective Criminal Cases: 244
Auto Accidents Investigated: 640

Fees Collected – Fiscal 98:

Revolver Permits: $3,415.00
Firearms Identification Cards: $136.00
Police Reports Copied: $1,572.00
Parking Fines: $46,775.00
Court Fines: $23,735.00
Administrative Fees for Details: $15,274.00
Parking Permits: $12,486.00
Civil Infractions: $52,770.00

Motorized Equipment:

(1) 1996 Ford Sedan
(2) 1995 Ford Sedans
(2) 1994 Ford Sedans
(2) 1993 Ford Sedan
(5) 1998 Ford Sedan
(1) 1998 Ford Van (ACO Van)
(1) 1978 Chevy Van
(1) 1998 Harley Davidson Motorcycle (Leased)
(1) 1996 Crime Van
(1) 1998 Ford Expedition

I would like to thank the Town Meeting Members, and especially the citizens of the Town, for the support they have shown their Police Department during the past year.

Edward W. Marchand
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

CHIEF:

Edward W. Marchand

LIEUTENANTS:

Robert J. Silva, Executive Officer
N. Kevin Patterson, Lieutenant Detective
Michael P. Cloonan, Lieutenant
Richard W. Robbins, Lieutenant

SERGEANT-DETECTIVE:

Patrick M. O'Brien

SERGEANTS:

Bruce F. Russell
David M. Stamatis
Francis G. Duclos
Peter C. Garchinsky
Mark J. O'Brien
James W. Cormier

PATROLMAN-DETECTIVES:

Michael D. Saunders
William A. Pacunas
Robert F. Flynn

SAFETY OFFICER:

Joseph R. Veno

ARMORER:

Paul G. Peoples

D.A.R.E. OFFICER:

Leone M. Sullivan

PATROL OFFICERS:

Walter R. Franklin
Robert J. Moreschi
Pasquale M. Iapicca
Joseph Belmonte
John T. Kyle
Norman E. Perry
Mark D. Segalla
Thomas Murphy
Larry E. Frederick
Charles J. Lentini
Christopher J. Voegelin
James P. Collins
Alan Perkins
David V. Savio
Derek Holmes
Michael Nickerson
Peter R. O'Brien
Michael Lee
John McKenna
Anthony F. Caturello
Matthew C. Edson
David J. Clark
Christopher R. Picco

ANIMAL CONTROL

Calls Received:	4,800
Complaints	2,750
Uncontrolled Dogs	3,000
Barking Dogs	350
Vicious Dogs	4
Dog Bites	20
Wildlife	2100
Other	0
Information:	
Lost Dogs	800
Found Dogs	740
Injured Dogs	10
Lost Cats	98
Found Cats	10
Abuse Calls	2
Total Number of Dogs Picked Up	
Impounded Dogs Returned	10
Impounded Dogs Placed	3
Impounded Cats	88
Action Taken:	
Verbal Warnings	Numerous
Written Warnings	Numerous
Citations Issued	350
Unlicensed Dogs	
Unrestrained Dogs	
Court Hearings	Numerous
Rabies:	
Wildlife Tested	3
Tested Positive	1
Animal Inspector: Quarantines	50
Informational talks	2

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director's Comments

All water production wells have been activated without restrictions for the first time since the gasoline spill on Route 93 on September 30, 1992. The Department continues to monitor its production wells and Cumberland Farms/Gulf Oil continues to monitor water quality in a number of wells within and adjacent to the gas spill site. It is expected that the monitoring program will continue for many years. Through the efforts of many DPW employees, Town staff, Committees and Boards, outside firms and governmental agencies, we have successfully operated our production well system without a trace of gasoline product in our wells. I would like to thank all who have assisted in this effort.

Department personnel were actively involved as members or liaisons of the following: Professional Development Committee; Community Planning And Development Commission; Conservation Commission; Development Review Team; Parking, Traffic and Transportation Task Force; Police Station Building Committee; DPW Operations Task Force; Town Forest Committee; Swimming Pool Task Force; Cemetery Board of Trustees; Safety Committee; Personnel Evaluation Committee; MWRA Advisory Board; Ipswich River Watershed Advisory Board; Reading Business Park Committee; Water and Sewer Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

In the area of personnel, the Department was pleased to welcome James Rich - Laborer in the Water and Sewer Distribution Division, Michael Scoutin - Tree Climber Grade 3 in the Foresty/Parks/Cemetery Division, Matthew Faucette - Laborer in the Water and Sewer Distribution Division and Kevin Aberle - Laborer in the Highway Division.

Two long-term, dedicated employees retired in 1998: Irving "Bud" Dickey, Jr., Supervisor of Forestry and Parks, Tree Warden and Superintendent of Insect and Pest Control, and William "Bill" Winkler, Supervisor of Water and Sewer Distribution. Both were employed by the Town for over thirty-five years, and their knowledge, experience and dedication will be missed by this Department and the community.

There continues to be a good cooperative effort on planned and emergency projects by the Divisions within the Department, in particular the development of Wood End Cemetery and park facilities improvements. Because of this effort, we are able to provide good quality service to other Town Government Departments and to the general public It is a pleasure working with the dedicated and devoted staff and I thank them for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward D. McIntire, Jr.

Administration Division

The Administration Division supported the Department with procurement administration, water and sewer billing, budget preparation and coordination, departmental personnel and payroll services, accounts payable processing, cemetery administration services and responses to public inquiries and concerns over Public Works area of responsibility. The voluntary water restriction publicity, plus growing concerns over our water supply, continued as high visibility issues. Concerns now included the future health of the Ipswich River Basin as a supply source.

Inquires also included information on second water meter policy and water utility rates. This year has seen closure in several program areas: The Water Treatment Plant residuals holding tank completed its first year of operation; the final phases of the parks refurbishment project was completed, including the renovation of the Parker Middle School Soccer Field surface; and renovations to the Library, Town Hall and Fire Station air handling systems were completed.

Cemetery Division
To the Board of Cemetery Trustees

The following is from office records for calendar year 1998:

Interments: 133	Interments for all years: 2,655	
Markers Set: 64	Foundations: 27	Monuments Reset: 23

Sale of Lots

Forest Glen: 8 lots, 0 single grave, total for all years - 2001 lots - 795 single graves.

Charles Lawn: 17 lots, 4 single and Veteran's graves, total for all years - 448 lots – 195 single and Veteran's graves.

Wood End Cemetery: 42 lots and 3 single graves, total for all years – 60 lots and 3 single graves.

Development

Wood End Cemetery – The second phase of filling in the rear of Wood End has been completed with the establishment of the roads and lawns. Lots will not be made available in this section until the first phase is sold out.

Cooperation from other Divisions of Public Works was outstanding and much appreciated. The Board of Cemetery Trustees has been very supportive of all the numerous programs and goals of this Division. I thank them for all their assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert L. Keating, Supervisor

Custodian of Veteran's Graves

Interments: WWI: 0 WWII: 21 Korea: 5 Vietnam: 2 Peace: 0

Total of all Veterans interred - 1446. As has been the custom for many years, all Veteran's graves were decorated with a flag and a potted flower for Memorial Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Driscoll, Custodian of Soldier's and Sailor's Graves.

Engineering Division

The Engineering Division provides engineering services to all Departments within the Town of Reading. The Division is responsible for: preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for Town construction projects; survey layout, inspection and supervision of Town construction projects; review of subdivision plans for accuracy and conformance with the subdivision rules and regulations; inspection of subdivision construction; administration of the Chapter 90 program; maintenance of all records concerning the subdivision of land, roadway construction and water, sewer and drainage construction; and issuance of various permits.

Construction activity was at record levels during 1998 with nearly $5 million worth of construction started or completed during the year. Major construction projects completed during the year included the reconstruction of Rustic Lane, resurfacing of Charles Street, resurfacing of Forest Glen Road, replacement of traffic signals at Summer Avenue and Prescott Street, reconstruction of the Mill Street Bridge, and construction of the Longwood and Kelch Road sewer and pumping station.

At long last, the reconstruction of Route 129 was begun during 1998 although progress has been slow. After being shut down for the Winter, the construction of the Mineral Street Bridge recommenced in the Spring of 1998 with completion slated for early Spring 1999. Survey plans were prepared and construction begun on the new parking lot off of Union Street. The construction was completed through binder course of pavement with completion of the project in the Spring of 1999. Continued survey support was lent to the Cemetery Division for the layout and construction of the Wood End Cemetery. The sidewalk and curb construction program continued with the majority of the work being conducted in the Killam School area.

The Engineering Division issued permits and inspected construction of 49 new connections to the Town sewer system. 105 Street Opening Permits were issued to Boston Gas and other contractors for repairs to underground utilities and construction within Town right-of-ways. Construction inspection was performed on the 7 active subdivisions within Town.

Engineering reviews were performed for the Community Planning and Development Commission and/or the Conservation Commission on several major development projects including: Sunset Rock Lane; the Carter and Coleman site plan at 242 Main Street; the Cumberland Farms site plan; the YMCA site plan and the Coolidge Middle School site plan. Numerous other reviews were performed on lesser projects.

Significant progress has been made in the design of upcoming projects. The State Project Review Committee has approved the conceptual plans for the Downtown Streetscape Improvements. This $2.5 million project will now proceed toward final design with the replacement of traffic signals, traffic flow revisions, parking improvements and landscaping elements. Final design has been completed on the Walnut Street reconstruction project with bidding and construction to take place in the Spring of 1999. Plans for improvements to the Library parking lot have been completed, and the project has been bid with construction to take place in the Spring. A significant amount of surveying has been performed for the West Street Corridor project. Base plans have been developed and initial submissions to the State should take place in April or May of 1999. Survey work has been initiated on the recently approved Mill and Short Street sewer project.

Design will take place over the Winter with construction beginning in early Summer. Detailed design plans have been developed for the proposed athletic fields at the Nike Base on Symonds Way although the Selectmen have yet to decide on a final alternative. Initial survey work was begun for the reconstruction of Summer Avenue.

Highway Division

The normal projects such as street sweeping, tree lawn replacement, sidewalk and street maintenance, mixing and sifting of loam and compost, cleaning catch basins and maintaining traffic signs and school flashers were done on a normal basis. Street sweeping was started April 23rd and finished July 2nd.

Special Projects

Processed gravel and filled the lagoon at the Water Treatment facility; installed the subfloors at the Town Hall and the Library attics; dug and installed the electrical conduit to the Library and the Police Station site; installed the drainage for the blight parking lot; did the soil remeadiation at blight parking lot; hot topped a new section of parking at the Field House; installed handicapped ramps at Killiam and the High School; paved Forest Glen Road and Longfellow Road; installed drainage on Pearl Street; paved Longwood Road extension and a section of Orange Street for the Sewer Department; graded and placed the binder course on Phase Two at Wood End Cemetery; dug out and paved a section of Tower Road; paved the entrance road to the blight parking lot and paved Mill Street from Short Street to the Bridge.

Vehicle Maintenance

Servicing and repairs continue throughout the year handling all Divisions plus the School Department and Council on Aging. With working Capital Plan in place, the Department is able to turn in the older pieces of equipment. The problem still continues with the parts increasing in price faster than the budget.

Snow and Ice

The Division sanded 17 times and plowed 3 times through the year of 1998. The Division will continue to work with the Schools to monitor additional sidewalks for plowing on an as-needed basis.

Forestry - Tree Warden's Report

Seventy shade trees were removed. These trees were dead or in a dangerous condition as to be a threat to public safety. One tree was removed due to storm damage. Sixty hazardous tree stumps were removed from tree lawns, parks, schools and playgrounds for public safety.

Dead wood and low branches were removed from the public trees as requested or observed. Tree trimming has continued as aggressively as possible but lack of personnel has continued to hinder this program.

Thirty two trees were planted on private and public property as replacements. Twenty trees were planted on new subdivisions by the developers.

The Tree Nursery on Strout Avenue continues to be a resource for new planting of trees throughout the Town.

The Compost Center on Strout Avenue continues to accept brush and leaves from residents. 40,136 cars entered the Compost Center in 1998.

The holiday lighting put up by the tree crew in the Town Square was once again very successful. There were 15,500 colored bulbs installed on the Common.

The Town of Reading was awarded "Tree City USA" for the thirteenth consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Four hundred blue spruce trees were purchased and distributed to all the fifth graders. Thanks to the Reading Rotary Club who have sponsored and assisted in this program to make "Arbor Day 1998" a success in Reading. Special thanks to all the Committees and Commissions working toward the preservation of Reading's public shade trees.

Parks Division

The Division continues to maintain 64 acres of grassed area thoughout the Town also the facilities within the parks and school athletic fields. This includes the renovation as well as continued maintenance of all the ball fields on school or park grounds. This year, a new irrigation system was installed at the Little League baseball field by the Birch Meadow Tennis Courts. The Parker School soccer field sodding was completed with new fencing installed around the field.

The Division maintains sixteen tennis and basketball courts. The Glen Meadow and Sturgis Park basketball and tennis courts were renovated this year with new equipment and fencing. Along with the sixty four acres of grass cutting, there is the trash cleanup, trimming, leaf raking at all the schools.

The Division also maintains eleven ball diamonds, three soccer fields and the varsity and practice football fields. There are also five outdoor ice skating rinks, weather permitting.

The Division's crew also assists all Town Departments, Committees and Commissions with tree maintenance and Winter snow and ice removal.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert L. Keating Supervisor-Tree Warden

Water Division

The Water Division installed a total of 44 new water services, replaced 28 old water services, repaired 11 water service leaks, repaired 10 broken water mains, replaced gate valves in 4 well houses, replaced 1 old hydrant, repaired 8 broken hydrants, rebuilt 34 hydrants, removed 1 hydrant for construction of new Police Station, a total of approx. 2000' of water mains and 5 new hydrants were added to the distribution system, replaced 32 old water services from the main to the property line on Lowell Street and Salem Street to prepare for the Route 129 road reconstruction project, all drinking fountains and Town irrigation systems turned on in Spring and turned off and winterized in Fall, 2 seasonal laborers painted and lubricated hydrants over

1/2 of Town, completed annual water inventory, loam and seed on all water jobs, checked and maintained 2 water booster stations daily, lowered and raised water gate boxes for construction jobs, installed 2200' of fiber optic conduit on Lowell Street and Salem Street, assisted Highway Department during snow plowing operations, removed snow from business district and schools, shoveled snow from hydrants, assisted Tree Department for 2 days picking up trees.

The exterior repair and painting of the Auburn Street Elevated Tank has been completed. During the rehabilitation project on the Auburn Street Standpipe, the 106 year old standpipe was found to be structurally unsound. The determination to raze the structure has been made and the Town is currently seeking proposals for its demolition.

Meter Room

The regular quarterly water meter reading cycle was supported, 605 work orders were received and completed. 8 meters were removed, 37 meters were repaired, 11 meters were reset, meters tested correct 19, meters tested incorrect 0.

Sewer Division

The Division personnel installed 7 sewer laterals and extended 5 sewer laterals on Lowell Street and Salem Street to prepare for the Route 129 road reconstruction project; repaired 1 broken force sewer main; responded to numerous sewer overflow locations due to heavy rainfall the week of 6/12/98; checked and maintained 10 lift stations daily; cleaned approximately 1/4 of the sanitary sewer main system; cleaned and maintained the grounds; cutting grass, trimmed bushes etc. around the sewer stations; completed work orders re: leaks, broken gates etc. and completed the annual sewer inventory.

Louanis Water Treatment Plant

A total of 725,362,000 gallons of water was delivered to the distribution system in 1998.

The highest single days consumption was 3,189,000 gallons on July 21, 1998, and the highest weeks consumption was for the period May 4 to May 30, 1998 -- an amount of 19,710,000 gallons. Average daily pumpage was 1,987,293 gallons.

Department of Environmental Protection approval was received for unrestricted use of all the production wells as conditions at the gasoline spill site continue to be positive. Monitoring and testing efforts continued at the gasoline spill site on Route 93 and at the production wells.

Again, for the 9th consecutive year, the plant received a Certificate of Recognition from the Department of Public Health for Outstanding Efforts in Providing Community Water Fluoridation.

The operation of the residuals handling tank allowed the Treatment Plant to recycle 23.3 million gallons of water.

Reading's drinking water again passed the Environmental Protection Agency, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for lead and copper. The Town has requested to the Department of Environmental Protection for reduced monitoring to once every 3 years as the regulations allow.

Contracts Awarded:

Water Treatment Plant roof replacement
Underground Storage Tank Piping and Monitoring Equipment Upgrade
Well cleaning and redeveloping
Well pump replacement
Auburn Street Elevated Tank repair and painting

1998 Pumping Records

MONTH	PUMPAGE	DAYS	AVERAGE DAY
JANUARY	59,575,000	31	1,921,774
FEBRUARY	53,045,000	28	1,894,464
MARCH	59,505,000	31	1,919,516
APRIL	55,534,000	30	1,851,133
MAY	68,214,000	31	2,200,452
JUNE	61,120,000	30	2,037,333
JULY	74,724,000	31	2,410,452
AUGUST	69,246,000	31	2,233,742
SEPTEMBER	63,125,000	30	2,104,167
OCTOBER	54,507,000	31	1,758,290
NOVEMBER	50,840,000	30	1,694,667
DECEMBER	55,927,000	31	1,804,097
TOTAL	**725,362,000**	**365**	**1,987,293**

1998 Rainfall Records

MONTH	RAINFALL INCHES	ACCUMULATED TOTAL INCHES	NORMAL INCHES
JANUARY	5.94	5.94	3.85
FEBRUARY	5.84	11.78	3.80
MARCH	4.42	16.20	4.05
APRIL	3.18	19.38	4.03
MAY	6.21	25.59	3.78
JUNE	10.45	36.04	3.51
JULY	2.68	38.72	3.22
AUGUST	2.41	41.13	3.51
SEPTEMBER	2.08	43.21	3.45
OCTOBER	4.93	48.14	3.96
NOVEMBER	1.73	49.87	4.91
DECEMBER	1.48	51.35	4.57
TOTALS	**51.35**	**51.35**	**46.64**

Total rainfall in 1998 was 51.35" which is 8.83" above normal.

READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Harry K. Harutunian, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Dennis A. Richards
Associate Superintendent

School Department

This report represents the activities, accomplishments and events of note that occurred in the Reading Public Schools during the 1998 calendar year.

1998 was a year of leadership change in the Reading Public Schools.

- Louis Adreani, a very popular and well-respected teacher/administrator for 44 years, passed away after a long illness. His leadership and expertise will be sorely missed throughout the school and district. Lou was a true advocate for the middle school student.
- Robert Peterson has been appointed as Coolidge interim Assistant Principal, and has been a welcome addition to the school community.
- Donna Pappalardo, middle school Instructional Specialist for Science and Mathematics, resigned, and Rick Comeau was selected to replace her.
- Mary Beth Banios was selected as the elementary Instructional Specialist for English Language Arts and Social Studies, and Dr. Christine Redford, a Joshua Eaton fifth grade teacher, was chosen to be the elementary Instructional Specialist for Science and Mathematics.
- Robert Spadafora "retired" from the Reading School Committee after a single term in office. Rob was replaced in the Spring Election by Harvey (Pete) Dahl.
- Roberta (Robin) D'Antona was re-elected to her third consecutive term on the committee. Mrs. D'Antona was also elected Chairperson for the 1998-1999 school year.

Events of note that occurred in 1998

- With the support of Town Meeting, the School Committee accepted the recommendation of the School Building Committee, and commenced a major renovation to the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School.
- During 1998, Reading High received an $1,800,000 infrastructure update with the most significant amount of money spent on upgrades to the HVAC system.
- In February of this year, the School Committee accepted a report from the Enrollment and School Size Committee proposing solutions to the current enrollment crisis in the elementary schools
- Town Meeting approved the proposal for a major renovation and addition to Barrows Elementary School, and the construction of a fifth elementary school on a piece of Town-owned property off Franklin Road referred to as the "Dividence Road."

- We continued our curriculum initiative work in Mathematics and Science, aligning the curriculum to the Massachusetts Frameworks, and preparing students for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System tests (MCAS).
- We expanded the Foreign Language Program in the middle school to include Foreign Language instruction every day for 7th grade students.
- In the Spring, MCAS tests were first given to fourth, eighth and tenth grade students in Mathematics, Science and English Language Arts. Results of the test were made public in December.
- RMHS' Class of 1998 enjoyed a banner year in the college search process. A break-down of their plans is: 77% - 4 year Colleges and Universities; 12% - 2 year Colleges; 2% - Prep Schools; 1% - Technical Schools; 1% - Business Schools and 6% - Work.
- RMHS' Drama and Band programs are excellent examples of the quality and depth of our extracurricular program. Both programs are reigning State Champions this year.
- The athletic program, a model of sportsmanship and athletic ability for the entire Middlesex League, had another successful year.
- A middle school restructuring committee has designed a plan to continue to improve our middle schools. Greater emphasis is being placed on team functioning, whole grade teams, improved communication with parents, redesigning the schedule to interdisciplinary/integrated learning, and strengthening the exploratory program.
- Across the school district, elementary teachers have begun their second year of a three year initiative in elementary Science. This year, we are piloting an Earth Science strand for all grade levels. The program, developed by Science and Technology for Children (STC), emphasizes hands on experiences and focuses on inquiry based learning.
- Wiring for Local Area Networks was completed over the summer at Joshua Eaton, Birch Meadow and the High School.

Reading School Committee
Harvey J. Dahl

School Committee

During 1998, the Reading School Committee faced tough decisions on several important issues that dramatically impact the operation of the Reading Schools, the most pressing of which has been the K-5 enrollment issue. Other important issues included a budget for FY 1999 which, while reflecting significant increases, was less than requested; review of the latest testing information from the State; preparation to take another look at the physical needs of the Reading Memorial High School (RMHS); and review and adoption of the first Strategic Plan for the Reading Public Schools.

The School Committee added a new member during 1998. Robert Spadafora "retired" from the Committee after a single term in office. As a former student, Rob's unique perspective will be sorely missed. Rob was replaced in the Spring Election by Harvey (Pete) Dahl, a former member of the Town's Finance Committee and a Town Meeting Member. Mr. Dahl's finance background will be tested as the School Committee approaches the building and renovation projects necessary to alleviate the enrollment issues. Roberta (Robin) D'Antona was re-elected to her third consecutive term on the committee. Mrs. D'Antona was also elected Chairperson for the 1998-1999 school year.

School Construction Projects

In recent years, enrollment growth and school construction have become a major issue for the School Committee. With the support of Town Meeting, the School Committee accepted the recommendation of the School Building Committee, and commenced a major renovation to the Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School. The $9,000,000 project will increase the student capacity from under 400 to 600 students, and provide needed improvements to the infrastructure and core facilities. In October of 1998, the School Committee accepted a bid from Seaver Construction, and broke ground on the additions and renovations of Coolidge Middle School.

During 1998, Reading High received a major infrastructure update with the most significant amount of money spent on upgrades to the HVAC system. These renovations costing over $1,800,000 were completed by the end of the 1997-1998 school year, and should alleviate some of the heating problems occurring at the High School. Several painting projects were finished at RMHS, and the building looked much improved for the beginning of the Fall semester in 1998.

Enrollment Issues

In February of this year, the School Committee accepted a report from the Enrollment and School Size Committee proposing solutions to the current enrollment crisis in the elementary schools. The Enrollment and School Size Committee consisted of 28 individuals including elected officials, school administrators, educators, parents and citizens from the general population. This group's proposed solution included the construction of a fifth elementary school on a piece of Town-owned property off Franklin Road referred to as the "Dividence Road site". With the year coming to a close, the School Committee will request the funds necessary to begin this project at a Special Town Meeting to be convened in December. This project which includes renovations to the Barrows and Killam elementary schools, should solve all of the current enrollment issues and qualify for SBAB reimbursement at a rate of 66%.

School Budget

The Spring Town Meeting approved a School Department budget of $22,909,000 and the Subsequent Town Meeting increased this amount by $188,000, for a total 1999 budget of $23,097,000. While this represents an increase of $1,825,975 over the previous year's budget, it was $447,479 less than the budget requested by the School Committee. While reductions from planned spending were necessary, the schools were still able to expand the Foreign Language Program in the middle school to include everyday foreign language instruction for 7th grade.

Increases of this magnitude continue to be necessary to keep up with additional costs related to the increased number of students, the task of aligning the curriculum to the Massachusetts Frameworks, and the continuing problem of trying to overcome the years of flat or reduced funding from State and local sources.

Budget Council

The School Committee continues to take an active role in the budget discussions held under the auspices of the "Budget Council." This unofficial body of the major Town boards provides a forum for Town-wide budget discussions in an attempt to bring a Town-wide consensus to spending prior to Town Meeting. This collaborative effort has proven to be effective in presenting a budget to Town Meeting which has already developed significant support among the Town officials.

Curriculum Initiatives

During the past two years, the School Committee has provided a certain amount of funding for curriculum initiatives. The purpose of this funding is to continue the process of aligning the curriculum of the Reading Schools to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. One goal of this ambitious program is to restructure the scope and sequence of the curriculum of the Reading Public Schools to achieve a consistency across all the schools in Town. The respective curriculum committees have presented their progress biannually to the School Committee.

School Committee Goals

As the School Committee set its goals for the 1998-1999 school year, there were some notable additions, including the development of a consistent and long-term strategy for student testing "to monitor progress and evaluate curriculum." The complete goals of the School Committee as approved are as follows:

Strategic Planning

- To move forward with a comprehensive strategic plan for the Reading Public Schools that will encompass the entire Reading community.
- The School Committee through its strategic planning process will develop an annual review process for strategic planning.

Respect and Dignity

- To continue to move toward intimidation free schools as a fundamental right of all. To continue training for all staff and students at the secondary level and to begin training for all staff and students at the elementary level.
- The School Department will integrate and coordinate all initiatives as they relate to the concept of tolerance of values and interests of others in connection with all school related activities (i.e., academics, athletics, arts, extracurricular, etc.) and evaluate the effectiveness.

- The School Department will focus on both current violations of policy as well as instituting a proactive approach to potential victims, harassers and bystanders.

Fiscal Responsibility

- The School Department will continue to monitor and advocate for short and long term needs both operational and capital for the Reading Public Schools while developing a five year operational budget plan which can be used as a blueprint for the School Department's financial needs.

Communication

- The School Department will propose a solution for updating and maintaining the Internet Web Page to facilitate communications between the Reading Public Schools, parents and the Reading community.

Facilities and Buildings

- Develop physical and financial plans for the renovation to, or new construction of the Reading Memorial High School.
- To implement the elementary feasibility study to address overcrowding, programmatic and facilities needs in the elementary schools.
- To continue to implement and evaluate a pilot program merging the school buildings with the Town buildings.

Learning

- To review, understand and validate a three-year plan of implementation of curriculum K-12, specifically in the areas of Math, Science and Foreign Language.
- To review, understand and validate the High School restructuring effort to improve student opportunities and achievement particularly as it relates to college expectations and the work of the Guidance Department in motivating, challenging and preparing students for college and work.
- The School Committee recognizes the school's obligation to encourage social consciousness. The School Committee directs the administration to explore avenues of opportunities and resources for developing social and civic responsibility.
- Develop consistent and long-term strategy for student testing to monitor progress and evaluate curriculum.
- Review and evaluate the grading system.
- Develop a long-range plan toward equity of support for extracurricular activities.

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Class of 1998

The Class of 1998 enjoyed a banner year in the college search process. A breakdown of their plans is:

77%	4 year Colleges and Universities
12%	2 year Colleges
2%	Prep Schools
1%	Technical Schools
1%	Business Schools
6%	Work

Extra Curricular Achievements

There are many activities which students at the High School support. Our Math and Science teams are active participants in area leagues that involve several meets on an annual basis. This year, we hosted a Science league meet at RMHS that drew from several high schools with more than 200 students.

Our athletic program is ably directed by Mr. Vaccaro, and is a model of sportsmanship and athletic ability for the entire Middlesex League. We are proud that our Drama and Band programs are excellent examples of the quality and depth of our extracurricular program. Both programs are reigning State Champions.

Faculty Training

Many of our teachers have participated in professional development programs. Technology is now a viable teaching tool employed by many teachers at the High School. New course offerings have been developed in Math (Math Modeling), Science (EnviroNet and Science Engineering), Spanish IIB and Humanities (Average Level) through summer curriculum development workshops.

All members of the Math Department have been trained in the instructional use of the graphing calculator. Our staff members belong to professional organizations that provide a constant source for new ideas that will have a positive impact on the school. The High School Alliance, NASSP, PALMS and foreign language associations highlight these professional affiliations.

Parental Involvement

Regular mailings of the "High Flyer" are used to keep parents informed so that they can continue to participate in the school to Work Shadow Days, Science Fair, PTO meetings, etc. Several parents helped the school host a ninth grade progressive dinner for parents. Any and all parents have an open invitation to attend meetings of the school's restructuring and graduation requirements committees.

MCAS Tests

This year saw the first administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) to our tenth, eighth and fourth graders. While local results are not known at this time, it is the School Committee's intention to use these results as a baseline from which to plan initiatives that will result in the improvement of scores at all levels. The MCAS will help the Reading Schools measure how successful we are at the alignment of our curriculum to the Massachusetts Frameworks.

Reading Memorial High School
Principal Frank Orlando

School Improvement Plan

The 1998-99 improvement plan is built on the success of last year's plan. With the help of Town Meeting, the High School has improved its heating and ventilation systems, installed new boilers, renovated existing chemistry labs, and installed wiring for a Local Area Network with access to the Internet. Teachers and students have received training on the acceptance of diversity. Curriculum study groups have implemented several changes in our program of studies. A student/faculty board has been created to recognize community service. New skills based graduation requirements are in the development stage. MCAS results are being weighed for their impact on curriculum. Finally, AP courses in Spanish and French are in the planning stage for implementation in the Fall of 1999. In all, the High School is an academic community that is full of life and vigor as it prepares students to enter a global society.

Curriculum Development

Phase II of school restructuring has centered on changes in our academic programming. Several departments have participated in this effort. Some highlights of the new additions to our academic program are:

1. All students take part in a required summer reading program.
2. Two new Science courses and one Math course have been developed to add depth to our departmental course of study and address student interest.
3. The Social Studies Department is restructuring its ninth and tenth grades program to prepare students for the MCAS tests.
4. An additional level has been added to our Spanish II program.
5. New AP programs are being developed in Calculus B/C, Spanish and French.

These changes will have a significant impact on the education of our young people as we prepare them for their pursuit of postgraduate study.

Middle school science is becoming more integrated (every Science, every year) and inquiry-based, hands-on instruction is being emphasized. Language Arts and Social Studies are beginning the process of examining their curriculum with the state frameworks, and will begin to make recommendations to align their curriculum with the state frameworks.

In addition to the core curriculum which every student takes, an academic eighth grade elective program was introduced and additional exploratory classes were added. These classes include genetics, literature and composition, the Civil War, World Language Tutorial, Drama and Dulcimer. These courses have given eighth grade students more academic and exploratory enrichment experiences as they prepare for high school.

A Greater Emphasis on Middle School Teams

The joint middle school restructuring committee has designed a plan to continue to improve our middle schools. Greater emphasis is being placed on team functioning, whole grade teams, improved communication with parents, redesigning the schedule to improve interdisciplinary/integrated learning and strengthening the exploratory program. An advisory team, composed of teachers from all areas, has been established to improve the communication and decision making throughout the building.

Communication and Parental Involvement

"The Coolidge Ledger," a monthly newsletter published and written by teachers and students, highlights the accomplishments and informs the community of upcoming events. The Homework Hotline Phone Number (979-2383) is available everyday after 3:00 p.m. for parents to check their son/daughter's homework assignments for the evening. Progress reports, report cards and team meetings are other avenues for parents to stay current on their child's progress. The principal holds neighborhood coffees on a regular basis to discuss school issues.

Parents are involved at Coolidge in a variety of ways. Volunteers help in the library-media center, in the main office, on field trips, various PTO activities, the school wide science olympiad, the annual school play and other school activities. Our PTO meetings (first Tuesday of every month) are well attended, and our School Council is very involved in vision and direction of the school.

Enrichment Opportunities for Teachers and Students

Students are given the right to take risks and explore avenues of learning. All of our students are involved in the Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, Continental Math League and School Wide Science Olympiad Day Activities. Tryouts are held for the Science Olympiad Team, the Math team and the Annual Play. Students may elect to participate in the band, chorus or National History Day Competition. Last year, for the first time, Coolidge students published the "Coolidge Constellation," a collection of student literary work.

Students participate in several out of school learning experiences such as the Boston International Festival, Prindle Pond Environmental Camp, Washington, D.C., Montreal and Quebec, Museum of Science, Museum of Fine Arts, Sturbridge Village, Boston Repertory Theatre, Boston Symphony Orchestra and other educational trips. On several occasions, students have performed community service for the elderly, the less fortunate and elementary students.

A.W. Coolidge Middle School
Principal John Doherty

A Year of Transition

1998 was a year of transition for Coolidge Middle School. Louis Adreani, a very popular and well-respected teacher/administrator for 44 years, passed away after a long illness. His leadership and expertise will be sorely missed throughout the school and district. Lou was a true advocate for the middle school student. Robert Peterson has been appointed as the interim Assistant Principal and has been a welcome addition to the Coolidge community.

Let the Construction Begin

Due to the overwhelming support of Town Meeting and the Reading Community, the Coolidge Middle School Building Addition/Renovation was approved in March, 1998. When completed in December, 1999, Coolidge Middle School will have an additional 10 classrooms, new/renovated core facilities for physical education, art, music, technology education, computer, and library-media, new science facilities, an expanded cafetorium, a multi-purpose room, and adequate storage and meeting facilities. The school will also have a state of the art technology infrastructure to enhance curriculum and instruction.

School Improvement Plan

The Coolidge Middle School Council, with input from the PTO, staff and community, has emphasized the following areas to focus on for the 1998-99 school year: Facilities and Equipment for Effective Learning, Meeting Diverse Learning Needs, Integration of Technology into the Curriculum, Implementation of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core of Learning, Middle School Restructuring, and Professional Development and Allocation of Funds. A seventh goal, Guiding the Effectiveness of Improvement Efforts, has been established to evaluate the other six goals. These goals are consistent with the School Committee goals and the goals established by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Curriculum and Instruction

Coolidge teachers spent over 1000 hours this summer on professional development and curriculum development activities. Some of the training activities included inquiry based science teaching, University of Chicago Everyday Math Program and the Connected Math Project. Curriculum development activities included Interdisciplinary development in Language Arts and Social Studies, World Language, Fine Arts and Technology Education. Other activities this summer included the designing of a new discipline code, an updated Coolidge Inclusion Plan and enhancement of the life skills curriculum.

This year, World Language (French or Spanish) will be in the seventh grade as an everyday subject. The Spanish 1 and French 1 classes are now two year classes which allow more depth into subject areas. The sixth grade Math curriculum is also new with the introduction of the Everyday Math Program into the sixth grade. This program will allow more students the opportunity to take higher level Math classes in Grades 7 and 8.

School Council

Our School Council had a busy year resulting in a number of initiatives underway this year. A thorough review of all school policies and practices has been accomplished, and will be followed by efforts to better inform all in the community of these policies. General communication with parents has been improved considerably with just about every team and department contributing to the monthly PTO Newsletter. Finally, due to the sprawling nature of the building and the strong focus on the team structure, we recognized a need to work on bringing the whole school together more often especially in pursuit of school spirit. Strategies are being implemented toward those ends.

Academic Focus

The pressures being brought by Education Reform, especially the MCAS testing, have generally been viewed as a positive by the staff. Lots of uncertainty exists in terms of how these tests will work out but the staff worked hard to see that our students were as prepared for the tests as possible. Various curriculum areas have been under review, and many changes have been made to make sure we are aligned with the State's curriculum frameworks. Everyone anticipates some shaky times during the first couple of years of testing but over the long haul, we expect students to be better off.

Special Recognition

Each year, there is usually evidence of strong achievement on the part of our students which reflects well on the academic focus of the school. However, equally important to the overall success of the school, are the contributions from the various specialty subjects. A walk through the building provides ample evidence of the superb accomplishments and powerful role that art plays in the school. Our performing groups in music are extraordinarily large and very talented. The physical education staff makes a special effort to provide a program rich in health education as well.

In addition, the staff members actively seek to help the school in as many ways as possible. Our technology people are invaluable, not only in the instruction of students, but in the constant assistance provided to other staff members. Finally, the media center is a true hub of the school, with Ms. Jewell working extraordinary hours in preparing resources that assist teachers working in their respective subject areas.

Notable Accomplishments

Adding to the honor of our TV news program being selected best in the State, we received word that the student newspaper, The Quill, was also deemed the best in their category. Despite a philosophy of including as many students as possible, the Math team regularly wins regional meets and lost out on first place in their larger division on the last meet of the year. Add in students being recognized at regional music and art competitions, and there is plenty of evidence of solid accomplishments.

Our teachers are involved in several professional organizations. We are affiliated with Grand Valley State University, UMass Lowell, Northeastern University, Salem State College, Tufts University and Harvard University for specific projects and staff initiatives.

Future Direction

Coolidge will continue to implement the goals and recommendations charged by the Middle School Restructuring Committee and the Coolidge Middle School Council. With the completion of a new and renovated state of the art facility, Coolidge will have the tools and educational space necessary to be a fully functional middle school. We look forward to the new facility as we continue to provide challenging and quality learning experiences for Reading's children.

Walter S. Parker School
Principal Dr. Jack Delaney

A Completed Project

This year marked the full implementation of the new Parker Middle School. The phased-in redistricting has been completed resulting in a 600 pupil student body. This also means that we have done the last of our staff hiring in order to serve this larger school community.
With two full teams at each grade level and taking full advantage of the completed facility, we have been able to provide students with experiences far better than in the past.

Restructuring Implemented

A very important adjunct to the new building has been the implementation of the recommendations from the middle school restructuring committee. Comprised of parents, staff and administrators from both Coolidge and Parker, this group worked for two years in an effort to improve both schools. Experience to date indicates significant return on this investment. Changes included steps enabling our teams to function better, a more collaborative environment, a stronger focus on student achievement and revisions to the program of studies. Most notable of those revisions was the institution of full-time foreign language study in the 7th grade. Staff assessment of the changes has been very positive, and our report to the School Committee late last year was very well received. As we continue working at improvement, we expect things to only get better which augers well for the student body.

Parent and Student Initiatives

Parents continue to be key players in the school. Last year, we identified over 100 parents who "contributed significantly" to the school and who were invited to an appreciation breakfast. This is remarkable testimony to the positive support we receive and to the collaborative approach of the school. Students were also doing their share particularly in terms of community service. From assisting the elderly to a variety of charitable efforts, our students demonstrated a great capacity for reaching out to others. Volunteer work within the school was common as well including peer tutoring of other students.

The staff used staff development time to become acquainted with the newest technology at Barrows. Parent and staff volunteers trained both staff and students in the use of the world wide web, email and other intricacies of the Internet. An active Technology Committee helped to integrate various computer applications into the daily curriculum.

Community Service Programs

The fifth grade classes participated in the "Good to Care" Program. Student volunteers delivered lunches to senior citizens, distributed cards at holiday time and became pen pals with seniors in Reading and beyond. Living History Day brought senior citizens and students together to share remembrances, memories and of school. The positive relationships that this project developed will remain with both the young people and seniors forever.

Professional Development

The Barrows' staff continued to move forward in the areas of educational technology, alternative assessment and inclusion. Motivating speakers visited the school giving the staff insights into classroom strategies. Staff members attended workshops and seminars to further enhance these educational endeavors.

Birch Meadow Elementary School
Principal Richard E. Davidson

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some of the very successful, exciting and positive learning experiences available to the children here at Birch Meadow School.

Curriculum

Across the school district, we are now completing our second year of a three year initiative in Science. In the past two years, we implemented a new Physical Science strand and a new Life Science strand.

This year, we are piloting an Earth Science strand for all grade levels. The program, developed by Science and Technology for Children (STC), emphasizes hands-on experiences and focuses on inquiry based learning.

Another area of our curriculum of which we continue to be very proud is our school-wide focus on writing. Our Birch Meadow Publishing House is currently in its ninth year of publishing books that are written and illustrated by students. We currently have over seven thousand published student books to our credit. Our annual celebration of student writing through our Young Authors' Days has become a favorite event of students, staff and parents at Birch Meadow

Science Center

Towards the end of this year, an idea was formulated by teachers to develop a "living and breathing" Science Center that would be reflective of our new Science curriculum. The idea has resulted in the organization of a joint staff and parent committee that will plan, create and develop the center to be located in our courtyard area.

Instructional Specialists

Two new instructional leadership positions were created by the School Committee last year. One position was assigned full-time responsibility for Social Studies and English at both Coolidge and Parker, while the other position has responsibility for Science and Math at both schools. Responsibilities include curriculum development and coordination, working on improving classroom instruction and generally doing all the other jobs associated with department heads. Having full-time people carrying out these functions has made quite a difference, and we should see strong improvements in the respective programs over the next few years. Ellen Howland is in charge of Social Studies and English, while Rick Comeau was selected to work with Math and Science.

Alice M. Barrows Elementary School
Principal Karen J. Callan

Many exciting additions and innovations marked the 1998 year at the Alice M. Barrows School. The School Improvement Plan outlined the goals for the staff, students and parent community. The following bullets highlight the important points of this plan.

Enrollment

The Barrows School reached an all-time high enrollment of 475 students as of October 1. Children from both the Killam and the Birch Meadow schools attended the Barrows kindergarten. Four kindergarten classrooms, comprised of eight sections, housed the 169 five and six year old students. Developmentally, activity centered based kindergartens allowed all the children to have a wonderful educational kindergarten experience.

Values and Expectations

The Barrows' staff and students continued to develop an environment that is caring and nurturing. Expectations, as stated in the Expectations pamphlet, were continually emphasized throughout the school. Completion of the student/parent handbook presents to the community a clear understanding of the policies, procedures and processes of our school. The continuing goal of our school is to help develop in children the self discipline and skills necessary to behave responsibly and to get along with others.

Inclusion

In 1998, the Developmental Learning Center, a special needs program, now involves students from Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2. Developing a Grade 2 looping class ensured that the positive attributes of the inclusive environment continued. The Teacher Assistance Team continued to advise staff in various strategies to best meet the ever changing needs of their students.

Technology

The goal of the Barrows' School in the area of technology is to meet the changing needs of today's learners and to integrate technology into all curriculum areas. The computer lab was hooked up to the Media One network in late Spring. By June, all twelve computers had Internet access.

Student Council

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Student Council organized their eighth annual Senior Citizen Luncheon last December to the delight of over fifty guests. Mr. Mosier, our Music Specialist, and over two hundred students also enjoyed a holiday sing-along after a delicious turkey fricassee lunch prepared by our outstanding kitchen staff. Desserts were prepared with love by our many volunteer parents.

In addition to our annual luncheon, the Student Council sponsored our Winter Film Festival held on Friday afternoons in February and March. Proceeds from the fundraising efforts were used to purchase classroom playground equipment and a new piece of equipment for our playground.

Open Invitation

Members of the community are cordially invited to visit our school or, if so inclined, volunteer at the school. Our Library Media Center continues to be a great place to work with children and learn about the school at the school the same time. Please feel free to call Principal Richard Davidson at 944-2335 with any questions, comments or to arrange a visit.

Joshua Eaton Elementary School
Principal Lisa Pittella

School Improvement/Communication

The School Advisory Council, in conjunction with the Joshua Eaton staff, prepared a new Joshua Eaton handbook for distribution to all students in the Fall of 1998. This handbook outlines the guidelines and expectations for Joshua Eaton students, and has proven to be a very helpful communication tool for our families.

In an effort to come to an understanding of the general perceptions that exist among the families of the Joshua Eaton community, the School Advisory Council prepared an extensive questionnaire that was distributed in May of 1998. The Council spent the Summer reviewing the results and developing presentations for the staff, PTO and general parent population. Action plans have been developed and information has been distributed to various school groups as a result of this survey. Some of the initiatives that have been implemented as a result of the survey included: the offering of a "Help With Homework/Study Skills Workshop;" the development of a planning team to organize a Diversity Day for the school; and a group of volunteers to study effective cafeteria practices.

The staff organized a Math Fair in March of 1998. Parents were invited to attend the school and wander through each of the classrooms where samplings of lessons from the Everyday Mathematics Program were being taught. In this forum, the students and their parents were active participants engaged in lessons and Math activities. Our goal was to provide an opportunity for parents to experience first hand what is involved in a typical Math lesson. The children loved working side by side with their parents, helping *them* with mathematical concepts.

Technology

As a school, we continue to move ahead with the development and implementation of technology in the classroom. This summer, our school had a Local Area Network (LAN) installed in the school and as a result all classrooms currently have faster and easier access to the Internet. In the future, we expect inter-school communication to be automatic as well as all teachers having access to email. "You've got mail" should be a familiar sound in each classroom in the near future. In addition, our Media Specialist and Technology Assistant continue to provide individual and small group professional development to all staff members.

Math Night

In April, our staff hosted a very successful Math night for parents. The evening started with a brief overview of the Everyday Math Program and continued with an exploration by parents (guided by teachers from all grade levels of the different Math strands). It was a very successful evening with close to one hundred thirty parents and staff attending.

Birch Meadow School Council

In addition to the monthly meetings to monitor and implement our two year School Improvement Plan, our School Council began a very involved and in-depth update of our parent handbook in order to reflect the changes in the district and school regarding policy, curriculum and programs that have taken place over the past three years.

After School Activities Program (ASAP)

At Birch Meadow, we are very proud of the fact that our school is now in its fourth year of being able to offer after school enrichment programs for children. Courses are offered in six weeks periods and range from computers, to science, to karate, to chess, to several experiences in the arts.

This is a joint parent and teacher effort that has been extremely successful in providing multiage enriching experiences for children at all grade levels.

Parent Involvement

Birch Meadow continues to be extremely fortunate as it enjoys a huge level of parent involvement and support. Our PTO is an outstanding organization which contributes to the quality of life here at Birch Meadow in many, many important ways. Yes, the PTO does raise essential funds to support programs for wonderful enrichment programs, field trips and library collection enhancement, to name a few. And, yes, these programs would not be possible without the effort and involvement of the members of the PTO but our parents also add to the quality of our instructional program by their involvement in their child's classroom, and by volunteering to be a part of our School Council, and by volunteering to be a part of the many ongoing committees that support children and staff. Parent involvement and support of their children at home is also greatly appreciated, and should not be under estimated in terms of its positive impact on student attitude and learning.

The KOALA program continues to be a huge success. It afforded over 250 students the opportunity to participate in after school learning activities. These activities are taught by parents, teachers and community members.

The Enrichment Committee coordinated with faculty liaisons at each grade level the programs brought in to supplement the curriculum. Generous PTO support made these programs possible. In March, a school wide, day long, International Fair celebrated the cultural richness of the school community by having parents and children share their native traditions and customs.

Professional Development

Killam's faculty were engaged in a wide variety of professional development activities. These activities were designed to prepare faculty and staff for recertification and to implement curriculum changes in Mathematics and Science. Teachers received training in the use of new science kits and were participants in summer workshops where teachers shared experiences with the Everyday Mathematics program. In addition, teachers attended workshops and seminars on topics dealing with authentic assessment, Project Read, phonics instruction for early readers, attention deficit disorder and the use of technology in special education.

The School Council provided Killam teachers the opportunity to apply for mini grants to help implement or develop a new curriculum activity. A group of first grade teachers worked on a project that established a primary grade book room which allows leveled reading books to be shared among first grade teachers. This helps ensure children greater access to books at their reading level.

Grade 2 teachers developed author study kits which provide activities and reading materials for students studying the works and style of various authors.

School Council Happenings

The School Council had a busy and productive year. In the Fall, the Council developed and conducted a parent survey to gather input about issues surrounding curriculum, communication and class size. The results of the survey provided a basis for the formulation of the goals the Council would focus its attention in the future. The goals developed were:

- Continue to communicate to the Killam community how technology is being used in the curriculum.
- Increase the Killam community's awareness of the Language/Arts Program.
- Support professional development of the faculty.
- Ensure a clean, safe school environment.
- Prepare recommendations for instructional improvements based on test results.

Technology

Wiring for the Local Area Network was completed over the Summer. This exciting technological addition will enable each classroom, the Media Center and the computer lab to have access to the Internet. Many Joshua Eaton parents were instrumental in developing the specifications for the elementary wiring projects. We are extremely fortunate to have such a supportive and involved group of parents on our Technology Committee.

We are continuing to address professional development in the area of technology with our staff, in order that we may effectively and meaningfully integrate the available technology with the curriculum.

Thanks to our extremely generous PTO, we have a complete set of 30 Alpha Smarts for classrooms to borrow from our Library Media Center. These lap top word processors are being utilized in a wide variety of ways by students.

Playground Improvements

We have made some improvements to our playground over the last year, including the painting of a number of playground games on our hot top area. Again, this was a project taken on by parent volunteers. These additions have added structure and fun to our out door time.

The PTO has been working with the Recreation Department in planning for continued playground improvements. We are looking forward to new equipment in the upcoming year.

J. W. Killam School
Principal Paul A. Guerrette

Technology Committee

Killam's Technology Committee, made up of volunteer teachers and parents, have continued their work to integrate technology into the curriculum in an educationally sound manner. This past year, they have worked with each grade level to introduce new software programs for inclusion into the instructional program. Teachers and students were trained simultaneously by the school's Media Specialist in the use of the new software. This approach proved to be an effective way to provide training. The school was introduced to high speed Internet access in Grades 4 and 5. Media One provided this access which has afforded students the opportunity to conduct research on the world wide web.

Parent-Teacher Collaborative

Committees of parents and teachers working together continue to enrich the program offerings at Killam. These voluntary committees have focused this years' efforts on continuing to expand the science center, working on coordinating the implementation of technology into the curriculum, providing after school programs and providing enrichment programs to supplement the curriculum.

Parent-teacher involvement in school improvement efforts found the Wonderful World of Wonder (WOW) Science Center Committee busy creating a lending library for teacher and student use. They also developed an after school Science program conducted in the Science Center as part of the KOALA after school program.

Program	Location	
Preschool Pervasive Developmentally Delayed	RMHS	Initiated 1997
Grades K-2 Developmental Learning Center	Barrows	Redesigned 1997
Grade 1-2-3 Integrated Program	Killam	Redesigned 1997
Grade 4-5 Language Based Program	Eaton	Initiated 1996
Grade 6 Language Based Program	Parker	Initiated 1997
Grade 7 Language Based Program	Parker	Initiated 1997
Grade 8 Language Based Program	Parker	Initiated 1996

- The Special Education Office strictly adheres to rate setting and procedural compliance with respect to requests, and approvals of independent evaluations which allows for improved fiscal responsibility.

School Entrance Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Reading Public Schools, a child must have reached the age of five on or before August 31 of the entering year. Under no circumstances will children younger than five be admitted.

No child shall be admitted to school except upon presentation of a physical exam and evidence of immunization as required by the State Immunization Law, and in accordance with the schedule established by the Department of Public Health. Effective March 1, 1990, children are required to present documented evidence of lead screening prior to entrance into preschool and kindergarten.

Under the Laws of the Commonwealth, each child shall attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which he attains the age of six.

Upon entering school each child is required to present a Birth Certificate.

"No School" Signals

"No School" will be announced over radio stations WBZ, WRKO, WEZE, WHDH, WBUR, on television stations 4, 5, 7 and Channel 3 on Cable TV between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

It is the policy in Reading to have school on all scheduled days and for parents to decide when conditions are such that it would be unwise for their child to attend. However, when roads cannot be opened, or other extraordinary conditions exits, school may be cancelled for all schools or for the elementary grades only. This decision will be made by the Superintendent of Schools.

Enrollment

The enrollment of the Reading Public Schools as of October 1, 1998 was 4,161. In addition, there were thirty-three students from Reading enrolled in Grades 6 through 12 at Austin Preparatory School, and twenty-two students enrolled in Grades 9 through 12 at the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School making the total school population in Reading as of October 1, 1998 - 4,216.

Special Education
Dr. Valerie Ardi, Director

The Special Education Department of the Reading Public Schools continues to experience exciting growth and changes. The accomplishments within the department this year have expanded the capacity of staff and increased the awareness of parents so that all can work together to meet the challenges of youngsters with a wide range of needs and learning styles.

The Special Education Department implemented the following recommendations to improve the organization and/or approach of Special Education programs, and the fiscal viability of those related supports and services.

Recommendations:

- Implement new programs and redesign existing services.
- Adhere to regulatory guidelines in regards to eligibility criteria, independent evaluations and Chapter 766 regulations.
- Closely monitor the Special Education budget.
- Provide opportunities for staff development to implement the School Committee goal.

Implementation:

These recommendations were implemented to help in the following ways:

- The Special Education Director continues to meet on a regular basis with both the Superintendent and the Town Accountant to review and closely monitor costs associated with Special Education services.

Staff development workshops have been offered to both general and Special Education staff to better understand current issues in Special Education, and to provide teachers with PDP's for recertification.

These workshops insured that staff were exposed to information that was identified as district priorities. They minimized training costs by conducting in-district workshops for all staff rather than funding costly individual conference attendance.

The workshops included, but were not necessarily limited to the following topics:

- Eligibility criteria for Special Education and Special Education extended year programming.
- MCAS testing for students with special needs.
- The relationship between IEPs and curriculum frameworks and alternative assessment criteria.
- The School Committee budget process in relation to Special Education services.
- The Special Education Department continues to develop district-wide programs and redesign existing district programs for those youngsters whose needs can and should be met within our public schools.

Retirements:

Mary Leary, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 2
Marjorie Joyce, Reading Memorial High School, Secretary
Anne O'Brien, Reading Memorial High School, Project Achieve/Social Studies
Diane Williamson, Central Office, Secretary to the Superintendent

Resignations and Reductions:

Carol Abbey, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Physical Education
Lou Adreani, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Assistant Principal
David Alesse, Maintenance, Electrician
Kristen Amico, Birch Meadow School, Special Education Teacher
K. Anderson, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Special Education
Mary Atkinson, Reading Memorial High School and Parker Middle School, Spanish
S. Beninati, Joshua Eaton School, Special Education Assistant
Thomas Bogan, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Science
Christine Brown, Birch Meadow School, Guidance/Psychology
Paula Buckley, RISE, Special Education Assistant
James Collins, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics
Joseph Connolly, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics
M. Connors, Reading Memorial High School, Intervention/Diversion Sp.
S. Connors, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics
Gloria Cormier, Alice M. Barrows School, Cafeteria
K. Cunningham, Reading Memorial High School, Cafeteria
Carrie Danzis, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education
Carole Davis, Alice M. Barrows School, Special Education
Diane DeBenedetto, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education
Audrey DiPillo, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education
N. Dumont, Alice M. Barrows School, Regular Education Assistant
Scott Eggert, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education Assistant
Christine Fenniman, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Math
Cara Gannon, Birch Meadow School, Grade 2
Cindy Goodwin, Reading Memorial High School, Cafeteria
Pamela Hodgson, Joshua Eaton School, Special Education Assistant
Robin Irwin, RISE, Special Education Assistant
Gail Kelley, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education Assistant
Craig Kunker, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics
Christine Leckonby, Walter S. Parker Middle School, LLD
Guy LeFleur, Maintenance, Custodian at Killam Elementary School
Keith Leston, Maintenance, HVAC
A. Loos, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, English
Nancy Lynch, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education
Sean Lynch, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Math
Kenneth Lundberg, Walter S. Parker Middle School, English
R. Manzi, Reading Memorial High School, Custodian

ENROLLMENT STATISTICS

*Eight-year Summary of Public School Enrollment**

GRADE	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
K	291	309	314	292	323	312	318	279
1	336	333	350	336	321	374	359	361
2	299	328	334	352	347	322	376	361
3	285	299	334	339	352	346	319	373
4	280	293	304	335	340	360	348	318
5	285	285	291	312	335	342	368	348
6	281	273	282	286	307	341	334	359
7	276	285	266	285	281	303	344	325
8	263	256	288	268	290	276	295	344
9	277	252	244	277	262	278	258	289
10	230	261	253	244	274	259	276	259
11	259	210	256	237	236	254	259	267
12	236	261	198	247	241	232	241	244
SPED	42	49	43	33	48	53	24	34
TOTAL	**3,640**	**3,694**	**3,757**	**3,843**	**3,957**	**4,052**	**4,119**	**4,161**

Enrollment Numbers are figures submitted to the Department of Education as of October 1st of each calendar year.

10/98

Appointments

Michelle Addario, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Spanish
Mary Beth Banios, Elementary Instructional Specialist Language/Social Studies
Gina Barrett, Birch Meadow School, Grade 5
Cathy Beach, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Social Studies
Amy Bradford, Walter S. Parker Middle Schoo, LLD
Amy Britell, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 3
Melissa Campbell, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education
Richard Comeau, Walter S. Parker Middle School Instructional Specialist Math/Science
Jennifer Conley, Walter S. Parker Middle School, English
Jim DeBenedictis, Reading Memorial High School, Project Achieve
Amy Dyment, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Math
Sarah Erickson, Walter S. Parker Middle School, World/Language
Samantha Genier, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Math
Brenda Hodgkins, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Physcial Education
Elizabeth Houghton, J. Warrent Killam School, Grade 2
Sara Klien, Alice M. Barrows School, DLC Teacher
Debra Kwiatek, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 4
Meghan LeFevre, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Science
Julie Locke, Joshua Eaton School, Resource Room
John Marion, Central Office, Director of Technology
Matthew McKeon, Reading Memorial High School, Social Studies
Paula Morrison, Birch Meadow School, Resource Room
Cheryl O'Brien, Reading Memorial High School, Assistant Principal
Bob Peterson, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Interim Assistant Principal
Janet Platt, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Math
Susan Puopolo, Alice M. Barrows School, Kindergarten
Chris Redford, Elementary Instructional Specialist for Math/Science
Brigid Rodin, Speech/Language
Noreen Scarpitto, Reading Memorial High School, Science
Maria Simon, Alice M. Barrows School, Kindergarten
Christina Spaulding, Walter S. Parker Middle School, LLD
Susan Sprole, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 2
Amy Stein, J. Warren Killam School, Grade 5
Beth Stevenson, Birch Meadow School, Resource Room
Amy Swenbeck, Reading Memorial High School, Social Studies
Josie Szolusha, Birch Meadow, Grade 3
Christina Tiernan, Reading Memorial High School, Math
Frank Tyburc, Reading Memorial High School, Spanish
Kimberely Vassilev, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, World Language
Beverly Zagarri, Central Office, Secretary

***Resignations and Reductions:* (Continued)**

Margaret Marcus, Joshua Eaton School, Special Education Teacher
Elia Marnik, Joshua Eaton School, Reading Teacher
Kathyrn McLaren, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Science
K. Mehlman, Reading Memorial High School, Secretary
Anne Oberteuffer, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education
Michelle Osgood, Reading Memorial High School, Science
C. Osterberg, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education Assistant
Donna Pappalardo, Coolidge and Parker Middle Schools, Math/Science Specialist
Tiffany Poor, Birch Meadow School, Grade 5
Virginia Quinn, Birch Meadow School, Physical Education
Cecile Reilly, Alice M. Barrows School, DLC
Deborah Reinemann, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Interim Assistant Principal
Susan Robinson, Reading Memorial High School, Special Education
Lisa Secher, Reading Memorial High School, Cafeteria
Jeanne Selfridge, Reading Memorial High School, Reading Teacher
Kristen Shuck, Walter S. Parker Middle School, METCO Tutor
Priscilla Squires, Alice M. Barrows School, Grade 3
Beth Ann Stevenson, Birch Meadow School, Special Education Teacher
Nancy Taylor, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education Assistant
Ken Werst, Reading Memorial High School, Math
Anne White, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Cafeteria
Christine, White, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics
Deborah White, Walter S. Parker Middle School, Special Education Tutor
Tara Williams, Reading Memorial High School, Athletics

Leaves of Absence

Jeanne D. Buckley, Alice M. Barrows School, Kindergarten
Christina Copeland, Athletic Coach
Jeannie Donovan, Reading Memorial High School, Art
Robyn Ferrazzani, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 4
Lauren Fusco, J. Warren Killam School, Grade 5
Gaelen Harrington, Reading Memorial High School, English
Mary Johnston, Joshua Eaton School, Grade 4
Lynn Kasparian, J. Warren Killam School, Kindergarten
Lauren McCarron, Joshua Eaton School, Kindergarten
Karen McCormack, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School, Physical Education
Ariane McCoy, Reading Memorial High School Latin
Amy O'Brien, Alice M. Barrows School, Grade 3
Jacqueline Peffer, Alice M. Barrows School, Kindergarten
Lori Potvin, Alice M Barrows, Speech/Language
Wendy Small, J. Warren Killam School, Grade 2
Sharyn, Taitz, J. Warren Killam School, Grade 1
Nancy Walcott, Alice M. Barrows School, Grade 1

DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
James G. Wallace - Winthrop

VICE CHAIRMAN
Michael T. Wall - Chelsea

SECRETARY
Deborah P. Davis - Woburn

TREASURER
Paul L. Sweeney - North Reading

ASSISTANT TREASURER
Anthony E. DeTeso - Stoneham

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Vincent J. Carisella - Wakefield
Earl W. Fitzpatrick - Malden
Ronald J. Jannino - Revere
Maura A. Looney - Winchester
William C. Mahoney - Melrose
Marjorie T. Pacino - Reading
Peter A. Rossettti, Jr. - Saugus

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR
Thomas F. Markham, Jr.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL
James A. Pelley, Jr.

VICE PRINCIPAL - VOCATIONAL
D. Michael Tamagna

VICE PRINCIPAL - ACADEMIC
Patricia K. Cronin

DIRECTOR PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES
Jo-Ann Testaverde

BUSINESS MANAGER
Ernest Zucco

SCHOOL TO WORK COORDINATOR
Louis F. Perriello

Northeast Metropolitan
Regional Vocational
High School District

Serving
Chelsea
Malden
Melrose
North
Reading
Reading
Revere
Saugus
Stoneham
Wakefield
Winchester
Winthrop
Woburn

Annual Report 1998

Northeast students beginning work in their vocational field, or entering trade apprenticeship programs, garnered 25% of the scholarship assistance to enable them to purchase costly tools and equipment as well as entry level expenses toward trade education programs.

SCORE Peer Mediation Program

In September, Northeast began its third year affiliated with the SCORE, a Peer Mediation Program. The SCORE Program was developed by the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts to help reduce the violence in schools. The Mediation process is successful in resolving conflicts of all types. Northeast has a full-time coordinator, 26 trained students and nine trained staff members. A trained mediator is a neutral person not involved in the dispute and through the mediation process, helps people come to their own agreement about how they want to resolve their conflict.

Support Services

The Guidance Department has established several Support Groups for the Northeast students. The Gender Equity Support Group has been established to work with students of all grades. Workshops are conducted for all freshmen identifying the benefits and concerns associated with choosing non-traditional careers. Student workshops are presented that focus on the issue of sexual harassment and identifying in-school and employment procedures to follow if faced with such concerns. The department also conducts support groups for students who are enrolled in vocational shops that represent non-traditional choices. Approximately 60 students participate in the support group program.

A support program for pregnant and parenting teens has been established to help encourage school participation and achievement of high school diplomas. The support groups are established that bring together girls who are pregnant and girls who are teen mothers to provide support to each other and to learn of the parenting responsibilities. Guest speakers are arranged and the groups focus on emotional needs, childbirth, nutrition, child rearing, growth and development, etc. Teen fathers are also included in the support system.

The Teen Dating Violence Peer Training Program, funded by the Department of Education, has established a peer training program that focuses on the issue of teen dating violence. Theater presentations, guest speakers, a parent workshop, teen dating violence prevention week, and leadership training workshops have all been part of the program. The peer training aspect of the program has educated 30-35 students yearly to be able to speak to younger students about the issue of teen dating violence.

The Peer Tutoring Program provides educational assistance to students having difficulty with one or more academic subjects. Students who have been successful in specific subject areas volunteer to assist others by arranging to meet during shop week or after school to provide needed assistance. The tutoring is designed to supplement after school assistance provided by the classroom teachers. The program benefits go beyond the tutoring as the positive relationships formed by the members of the tutoring as the positive relationships formed by the members of the tutoring groups help to break down barriers between grade levels.

NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Accreditation

The New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. notified the Northeast of the deliberations at the November 12-13, 1998 Commission on Technical and Career Institutions Meeting, at which time the Commission reviewed the evaluation report of its fifth year focused visit team dated April 27-29, 1998, and voted continued accreditation for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School.

Outstanding Student Award

Wanda Vega from Chelsea, a bilingual student and senior in the Accounting/Computer Technology Program, was chosen Northeast's nominee at the State Awards Dinner for Outstanding Vocational Technical Students. The event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association.

Vocational Honor Society

The Northeast Chapter of the National Vocational Technical Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony in April. At the ceremony, 30 students were inducted. These students joined the previously inducted members to bring the Vocational Technical Honor Society Chapter to 55 members for the 1997-98 school year.

National Honor Society

The fourth Annual Induction Ceremony to the Northeast Chapter of the National Honor Society was held in May. Sixteen students were inducted for the 1997-98 school year bringing the total membership to twenty nine.

VICA Awards

At the State VICA Competition held in April, Northeast finished with two Gold Medals, one Silver Medal, one Bronze Medal and one State Officer Elect. Wanda Vega from Chelsea was the Gold Medal winner in Accounting, and Victoria Ciampa from Revere was the Gold Medal winner in Dental Assisting. Also receiving awards at the State level were: William Catanesye of Revere who was awarded the Silver Medal in Cabinet Making, Kevin Lancaster from Saugus was awarded the Bronze Medal in Carpentry, and Stephanie Hoffman from Chelsea State Officer Elect.

Student Advisory Rep to the School Committee

Chrissy Wright, a senior from Malden, was re-elected as the Student Representative to the School Committee for the 1997-98 school year.

Scholarship Committee

The Northeast Scholarship Committee awarded individual scholarships to 76 deserving students at the 1998 graduation exercises. The total of $218,000 was given in scholarships. The average award was $3,000 with 75% of the scholarship aid going to students furthering their education at a four year school.

One hundred and eighty members of the graduating class entered military service, are employed or seeking further education – that figure represents 90% of the Class of 1998.

Special Needs Enrollment

Special Needs enrollment for the 1997-98 school year continued to represent a fair share of the total school enrollment with students. The 258 Special Needs students represent 23% of the school population.

Athletic Records

The Northeast Varsity Football Team were co-champions of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference.

The Northeast Varsity Soccer Team, in its first year of competition, qualified for the State Tournament.

The Northeast Varsity Hockey Team qualified for the State Tournament play and lost in the first round.

Shining Knights

The Shining Knights had a very successful year. Ice Cream Sundae Socials were held quarterly for students who were on the Honor Roll or had perfect attendance for the quarter. The Shining Knights drawings were held at this time, and many prizes were awarded to students who had received cards. The cards were given to the students for perfect attendance, achievement, leadership, detention/suspension free or doing a "good turn." The Grand Prize drawing as held in June in the football field with the entire student body in attendance. This year, cars were given to Jared Fraser of Revere who selected a 1988 Nissan Sentra, Irma L. Morales of Chelsea who received a 1988 Pontiac Grand AM, and Monica Williams of Saugus who received a 1985 Plymouth Reliant. These cars were donated to the Shining Knights Program and reconditioned by Auto Tech and Auto Body students. We are looking forward to an even more successful year in 1998-1999.

District School Committee Elections

At the Annual Reorganizational Meeting of the District School Committee on January 8, 1998, the following members were elected Officers of the District School Committee:

Chairman	James G. Wallace of Winthrop
Vice Chairman	Michael T. Wall of Chelsea
Secretary	Deborah P. Davis of Woburn
Treasurer	Paul L. Sweeney of North Reading
Asst. Treasurer	Anthony E. DeTeso of Stoneham

Summer Programs

The summer of 1998 was a busy time at Northeast with a full scale academic and vocational summer school in operation. More than 300 students in Grades 9 through 12 participated.

The popular Computer Camp, with more than 300 students, took on a whole new look in 1998. It was the seventh year for this ever expanding program. It is the objective of the counselors to teach campers skills that they can use during their regular school year. The new programs will help strengthen reading and math skills, and there is a segment of the curriculum that provides for the improvement of social skills. The computer equipment has also been updated, and will now include programs geared specifically to the primary grade levels of 1, 2 and 3 as well as continue servicing our Grades 4 through 8 population. An introduction to the Internet also became part of the Camp Program. The Computer Camp schedule consisted of a three-hour rotating schedule of computer lab, swimming, and sports and games.

Adult Education

Adult Education continued at an all time high with more than 2000 students enrolled this year. Our goal is to provide as many educational services as possible to the 350,000 residents of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District. In pursuing this goal, the Adult Education staff maximizes utilization of the Northeast facilities, offering an extensive selection of stimulating and practical programs Monday through Saturday during the school year, and Monday through Friday during the summer months.

Northeast offers a State Approved Auto Damage Appraisal Program, as well as a Masters Program in Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Fitting. As the number one apprentice training center in New England, we annually guide hundreds of young men and women as they prepare for their journeyman or master license in their trade. For the many senior citizens enrolled, we offer a wide variety of programs designed to satisfy their interest in crafts, hobbies, physical fitness, etc.

During 1997-98, the Adult Education agenda is the focus on the health care and related fields which project high employment possibilities. Courses such as Anatomy and Physiology, Algebra (pre-nursing), Chemistry (pre-nursing) and Certified Nurse Aide, as well as Medical Terminology and Medical Transcription, and Human Biology (Anatomy) all mirror this trend.

1998 Graduates

The 1997-98 school year represents the twenty-eighth class to matriculate at the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School. Northeast graduated 200 students in the Class of 1998. The breakdown of graduates status after graduation is as follows:

Entering Military Service	10
Employed in Related Field	89
Employed – Not in Related Field	20
Pursuing Additional Education	61*
Unemployed - Seeking Employment	20

*It should be noted that 31% of the graduating class went on to further their education.

NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT HISTORY

CITY/TOWN DISTRICT	S.Y. 88-89	S.Y. 89-90	S.Y. 90-91	S.Y. 91-92	S.Y 92-93	S.Y. 93-94	S.Y. 94-95	S.Y. 95-96	S.Y. 96-97	S.Y. 97-98	S.Y. 98-99
Chelsea	198	234	204	236	251	256	313	296	250	239	223
Malden	251	248	252	270	237	269	252	226.5	232	235	237
Melrose	64	52	44	34	35	41	35	29	36	26	32
North Reading	47	53	54	38	31	23	13	15	10	12	12
Reading	43	30	29	22	22	23	15	14	14	25	22
Revere	213	215	186	186	167	184	186	211	218	227	252
Saugus	190	196	181	150	125	123	136	154	161	145	136
Stoneham	66	54	43	48	47	40	36	37	37	40	36
Wakefield	80	83	67	53	40	30	37	33.5	28.5	34	50
Winchester	14	12	11	8	4	3	4	2	2	2	7
Winthrop	24	26	25	22	35	35	37	32	21	23	28
Woburn	98	93	71	56	61	69	56	46	53	55	60
TOTALS	1288	1296	1167	1123	1055	1096	1120	1096	1062.5	1063	1095
NON DISTRICT (Tuition)			1	15	11	13	7	26	45.0	48	47
GRAND TOTAL			1168	1138	1066	1109	1127	1122	1107.5	1111	1142
SPECIAL NEEDS ENROLLMENT	357	299	286	236	235	218	222	242	213.5	258	244
% SPECIAL NEED ENROLLMENT	28%	23%	24%	21%	22%	20%	20%	22%	19%	23%	21%

10/1/98

District School Committee

In the State Wide Elections held in November of 1998, two communities, Reading and Woburn, were on the ballot for seats on the Northeast District School Committee. Those two seats had been filled previously through appointments by their community officials due to the death of School Committee Members John Pacino of Reading and Thomas Shaughnessy of Woburn.

The candidates on the ballot in Reading were Marjorie Pacino who was appointed to fill her husband's seat on the Committee, and Robert S. McCarthy. Robert S. McCarthy was elected to the Northeast District School Committee representing Reading. Deborah P. Davis, who was appointed to fill the Woburn vacancy, ran unopposed and was elected to the Northeast District School Committee representing Woburn. Both terms will be for a two year period, thereby making all Northeast District School Committee seats up for election in the year 2000.

Conclusion

Northeast has been proud to serve the twelve member communities during the last twenty eight years, and the faculty, administration and students look forward to another rewarding year of vocational/technical excellence by continuing to offer the latest in vocational/technical and academic education by maintaining a high level of performance. The school continues to offer students the finest education with which to build a successful career, no matter which career path they have chosen.

The truth of our past achievements can be seen by the number of Northeast Metro Tech alumni success stories, and their readiness and willingness to give credit where credit is due. Several alumni have joined school officials during recruiting sessions at the local schools. Many of these graduates are not only telling their stories, they are also returning to the school to further their education through Adult Education and its apprenticeship programs.

Once again, I am proud to have represented Reading as a member of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational District School Committee, not only to serve as the guardian of funds allocated from the community to this educational institution, but to assist in and provide counsel to the school in maintaining the highest standards of educational excellence possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie T. Pacino
Reading Representative
Northeast School Committee

Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School District
Balance Sheet
June 30, 1998

Assets:	
Cash	$1,255,483
Dues from Municipality	$52,533
Prepaid Expense	$22,280
TOTAL ASSETS	**$1,330,296**
Liabilities and Fund Balances:	
Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	$32,985
Accrued Payroll	$110,582
Accrued Vacation & Sick	$153,524
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$297,091**
Fund Balances:	
Reserved for Encumbrance	$67,783
Water Line	$331,846
Insurance Trust Fund	$50,000
Immunization	$5,500
Undesignated	$578,076
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	**$1,033,205**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	**$1,330,296**

NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
COMPARISON OF ASSESSMENTS

8/13/98

	BUDGET FY1998	BUDGET FY1999	VARIANCE $	VARIANCE %
GROSS BUDGET	$11,623,768	$12,253,076	$629,308	5.4%
LESS REVENUES				
Sch.Aid Ch.70	$5,061,820	$5,630,041	$568,221	11.2%
School Choice	($800,000)	($906,910)	($106,910)	13.4%
Transportation	$345,000	$329,276	($15,724)	-4.6%
TOTAL REVENUES	$4,606,820	$5,052,407	$445,587	9.7%
NET ASSESSMENTS	$7,016,948	$7,200,669	$183,721	2.6%
CHELSEA	$1,219,694	$1,023,102	($196,592)	-16.1%
MALDEN	$1,363,790	$1,557,082	193,292	14.2%
MELROSE	$260,601	$169,858	(90,743)	-34.8%
NO. READING	$10,141	$32,324	22,183	218.7%
READING	$94,352	$219,594	125,242	132.7%
REVERE	$1,316,075	$1,400,017	83,942	6.4%
SAUGUS	$1,159,074	$1,008,157	(150,917)	-13.0%
STONEHAM	$215,149	$258,744	43,595	20.3%
WAKEFIELD	$220,555	$257,367	36,812	16.7%
WINCHESTER	$22,472	$12,947	(9,525)	-42.4%
WINTHROP	$57,138	$87,600	30,462	53.3%
WOBURN	$1,077,907	$1,173,877	95,970	8.9%
TOTAL	$7,016,948	$7,200,669	$183,721	2.6%

	STUDENTS fy1998	STUDENTS FY1999	VARIANCE	PERCENT OF CONTRIBUTION
CHELSEA	250	240	-10	22.53521%
MALDEN	232	234	2	21.97183%
MELROSE	36	25	-11	2.34742%
NO. READING	10	12	2	1.12676%
READING	14	26	12	2.44131%
REVERE	218	226	8	21.22066%
SAUGUS	161	147	-14	13.80282%
STONEHAM	37	40	3	3.75587%
WAKEFIELD	28.5	34	5.5	3.19249%
WINCHESTER	2	2	0	0.18779%
WINTHROP	21	23	2	2.15962%
WOBURN	53	56	3	5.25822%
TOTAL	1062.5	1065	2.5	100.00000%

Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Board of Library Trustees	**6**	**3 yrs.**			**Elected**
Maria E. Silvaggi, Chairman		74 Whittier Road	(94)	Mar.'00	
Stephen M. Conner, V. Chr.		73 Hillcrest Road	(96)	Mar.'99	
Richard J. Ogden		6 Arnold Ave.	(98)	Mar.'01	
Cherrie M. Dubois		9 Meadow Brook Lane	(85)	Mar.'00	
Donna Indelicato		5 Grand Street	(98)	Mar.'99	
Christine B. Redford		18 Maple Ridge Road	(86)	Mar.'01	

Board of Registrars	**4-2 from each major party**		**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
William Hancock		30 Curtis Street	(96)	1999	
Gloria R. Hulse		107 Sanborn Lane	(92)	2000	
Anne Taylor		1 Charles St. V	(98)	2001	
Cheryl A. Johnson		4 Summit Drive	(96)	Indef.	B.V. of O.

Board of Selectmen	**5**		**3 yrs.**		**Elected**
W. Bruce MacDonald, Chr.		67 Prospect Street	(95)	Mar.'01	
Sally M. Hoyt, V. Chr.		221 West Street	(90)	Mar.'99	
Matthew J. Nestor, Secretary		46 Latham Lane	(98)	Mar.'01	
Camille W. Anthony		26 Orchard Park Drive	(94)	Mar.'00	
George V. Hines		35 Grand Street	(90)	Mar.'99	

Bylaw Committee	**5**		**3 yrs.**		**Mod.**
Philip B. Pacino, Chairman		3 Copeland Avenue	(86)	2001	
Dolores S. Carroll, Secretary		37 Johanna Drive	(87)	1999	
Vacancy			( )	2000	
John H. Russell		91 Spruce Road	(91)	2000	
George A. Theophanis		86 West Street	(78)	1999	

Cable TV Committee	**7**		**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
James. A. Guarente		29 Terrace Park	(83)	1999	
Vacancy			( )	2000	
Joseph Santangelo		20 Boyce Street	(98)	2001	
Vacancy			( )	1999	
Michael M. Longo		50 Pratt Street	(93)	2001	
Bernice Svedlow, Chr.		50 Tamarack Road	(97)	1999	
James Biller		523 Franklin Street	(97)	2000	

BOS – Board of Selectmen; T. Mgr. – Town Manager; Mod. – Town Moderator; B.V. of O. – By virtue of office; Sch. Com. – School Committee; FChr. – Finance Committee Chairman; E. by E. – Elected by Employees. *All terms expire June 30 of year noted, unless indicated otherwise.

APPOINTED AND ELECTED TOWN BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS
(Effective December 31, 1998)

Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g Auth.
Audit Committee	**5**	**3 yrs.**			
Camille Anthony		26 Orchard Park Drive	(94)	2000	**BOS**
Carol Grimm		12 Estate Lane	(95)	1999	**FinCom**
Jim Keigley		3 Pilgrim Road	(97)	2001	**B.V. of O.**
Fred Van Magness		243 Franklin Street	(96)	2001	**Mod.**
Thomas Stohlman		14 Mineral Street	(97)	1999	**Sch. Com.**

Board of Appeals	**3 + 3 Associates**	**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
Christopher R. Vaccaro, Chr.	57 Woburn Street	(94)	2001	
John A. Coote, V. Chairman	332 Summer Avenue	(89)	2000	
Michael J. Larkin	3 Lakeview Ave. #5	(98)	1991	
Laura M. Gregory (Associate)	75 Grove Street	(96)	2000	
John A. Jarema (Associate)	797 Main Street	(78)	1999	
Vacancy (Associate)		( )	1999	

Board of Assessors	**3**	**3 yrs.**		**Elected**
Robert I. Nordstrand, Chr.	384 Franklin Street	(69)	Mar.'99	
David Nugent, Secretary	16 Nugent Lane	(88)	Mar.'00	
Mary S. Ziegler,	37 Redgate Lane	(92)	Mar.'01	

Board of Cemetery Trustees	**6**	**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
Daniel F. Driscoll Jr., Chairman	14 Vista Avenue	(86)	2001	
William C. Brown	28 Martin Road	(96)	2000	
Randolph R. Harrison	25 Indiana Avenue	(95)	2001	
Ronald O'Connell	63 Colburn Road	(96)	1999	
John M. Silvaggi	74 Whittier Road	(81)	1999	
Mary R. Vincent	17 Indiana Avenue	(94)	2000	
Vern Taylor (Assoc.)	232 High St.	(98)	1999	

Board of Health	**3**	**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
James J. Nugent, Jr., Chairman	11 Nugent Lane	(83)	2001	
Nancy Carlson	106 Oak Street	(98)	2000	
Cynthia Richards	52 Sanborn Street	(96)	1999	

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Constables	**5**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Thomas H. Freeman	P.O. Box 825		(93)	2000	
Sally M. Hoyt	221 West Street		(72)	1999	
William J. Hughes, Jr.	102 Hanscom Avenue		(81)	2001	
Dan Halloran	934 Main Street		(98)	1999	
Eric Jones	28 Salem Street		(98)	1999	

Contributory Retirement Board	**5**	**3 yrs.**			
Henry J. Boissoneau, Chairman	122 John Street, Apt. 3			1999	**E. by E.**
Richard P. Foley, Town Acct.	68 Tennyson Road			Indef.	**B.V. of O.**
Elizabeth W. Klepeis	68 Tennyson Road			12/98	**T. Mgr.**
Stephen W. Mitchell	18 Fremont Street			2000	**Board**
Joe Veno	67 Pleasant Street			2001	**E. by E.**

Council on Aging	**10**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Mary J. Andreola, Chairman	331 Summer Avenue		(89)	2001	
Dorothy L. Foxon, V. Chr.	23 Ash Hill Road		(89)	2000	
G. Gay Williams, Secretary	482 Franklin Street		(96)	2001	
Gladys B. Cail	36 Frank D. Tanner Dr.		(86)	2000	
Elizabeth Cronin	403 Pearl Street		(96)	2001	
Elizabeth Moore	44 Catherine Avenue		(97)	2000	
Joanne O'Brien	25 Irving St.		(98)	1999	
Edwina Kasper	76 Village Street RDG.		(98)	1999	
Joanne Wooldridge	287 Haverhill Street		(96)	1999	
David Brigham	36 Hanscom Avenue		(97)	2000	

Cultural Council	**12**	**3 yrs. (6 max.)**			**BOS**
Karin A. Samatis, V. Chr.	74 Prescott Street		(93)	2000	
Roberta Ann McRae, Chr.	35 Mark Avenue		(95)	2001	
Debra Darcy	94 Oak Street		(95)	2001	
Jeanne Freeman	16 Grant Street		(93)	1999	
Vacancy			( )	2001	
Vacancy			( )	1999	
Karen O'Connell, Sec.	544 Pearl Street		(96)	1999	
Vacancy			( )	2001	
Ann Marie Rotondo, Treas.	43 Tennyson Road		(96)	2000	
Vacancy			( )	1999	
Judith Junker	21 Mark Avenue		(97)	2000	
Beatrice Flammia	506 Pearl Street		(97)	2000	

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Capital Improvements Advisory Subcommittee	**3**	**1 yr.**			**FinCom**
Carol S. Grimm	12 Estate Lane			1999	
Catherine Martin	521 Summer Ave.			1999	
James Francis	156 Prospect Street			1999	

Celebration Committee	**5**	**3 yrs.**			
Mark Burak	28 Lewis Street		(97)	2000	**BOS**
George C. Hines	72 Linden St., Apt. 101		(97)	1999	**Mod.**
Gladys M. Jones, Act. Chr.	483 Franklin Street		(95)	1999	**Historical**
William J. McLaughlin	37 Knollwood Road		(95)	2001	**Library**
Mary E. Williams	82 Mineral Street		(95)		**Sch. Com.**

Commissioners of Trust Funds	**5**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Robert S. Cummings, Chairman	105 Gleason Road		(90)	1999	
Bruce MacDonald	67 Prospect St.			1999	B.V. of O.
John J. Daly	163 Woburn Street		(95)	2001	
Dana E. Hennigar	48 Colonial Drive		(89)	2000	
Elizabeth W. Klepeis	68 Tennyson Road			Indef.	B.V. of O.

Community Planning & Development Commission	**5**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Michael P. Flammia,	45 Barrows Road		(96)	1999	
Richard Schubert, Chr.	119 Winthrop Avenue		(97)	2000	
Jonathan E. Barnes, Sec.	41 Pratt Street		(90)	2001	
Neil Sullivan	20 Franklin Street		(98)	1999	
Richard D. Howard	21 Kiernan Road		(86)	2001	

Conservation Commission	**7**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Nancy Eaton, Chairman	13 Short Street		(94)	2000	
Vacancy			( )	1999	
John Casciano	123 Hopkins Street		(98)	2001	
Mark Gillis	237 Forest Street		(96)	2000	
Harold V. Hulse	107 Sanborn Lane		(79)	2000	
Vacancy			( )	2001	
William Ogden Finch	51 Mill Street		(98)	1999	

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Historical Commission	**5 + Associates**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Virginia M. Adams, Chr.	59 Azalea Circle		(78)	1999	
Wilbar M. Hoxie	31 Green Street		(93)	2000	
Roberta M. Sullivan, Treasurer	76 Minot Street		(96)	1999	
Louise E. Sandberg	935 Main Street		(96)	2001	
Clayton Jones	483 Franklin Street		(89)	2001	
David H. O'Sullivan (Assoc.)	18 Thorndike Street		(93)	1999	
Mark Cardono (Assoc.)	26 Boswell Road		(98)	1999	
Vacancy (Assoc.)			( )	1999	

Housing Authority	**5**	**5 yrs.**			**BOS**
Robert K. Sweet, Jr., Chairman	32 Baker Road		(89)	2003	
Donald C. Allen, V. Chr.	231 Forest Street			2001	State Appts.
Mary E. Connors, Treasurer	52 Sanborn St. Apt. 103		(96)	2002	
Jean H. Galvin	225 Forest Street		(88)	2000	
Timothy Kelley	84 Woburn Street		(96)	1999	

Landbank Committee	**3**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Benjamin E. Nichols, Chairman	25 Avon Street		(66)	1999	
George B. Perry, II, V. Chr.	230 Franklin Street		(82)	2001	
Edward G. Smethurst	86 Gleason Road		(88)	2000	

MBTA Advisory Board	**1**	**Indef.**	**T. Mgr.**
Russell Dean	16 Lowell Street		

(MEPA) Rep to Citizens Advisory Committee	**1 + Alternate**	**Indef.**	**BOS**
Steven G. Oston	66 Sturges Road		
Robert F. Cashins (Alternate)	12 Ash Hill Road		

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g Auth.
Custodian of Soldier's And Sailor's Graves	**1**	**3 yrs.**			
Francis P. Driscoll	7 Ordway Terrace		(92)	2000	**BOS**

Employee Awards Committee	**5**	**1 yr.**		
Peter I. Hechenbleikner	102 Eastway		Indef.	**B.V. of O.**
Vacancy				**BOS**
Vacancy				**T. Mgr.**
Vacancy				
Vacancy				

				Fincom
Finance Committee	**9**	**3 yrs. (9 yrs. Max.)**		**AppCom**
James A. Keigley, Chairman	3 Pilgrim Road	(92)	2001	
Carol S. Grimm, V. Chr.	12 Estate Lane	(93)	2000	
Paul K. Kurker	34 Washington Street	(97)	2000	
Charles Robinson	201 Woburn Street	(98)	1999	
Catherine Martin	521 Summer Avenue	(95)	2001	
Richard McDonald	80 Redgate Lane	(96)	2000	
James Francis	156 Prospect Street	(97)	1999	
Mary Grimmer	147 Haverhill St.	(98)	2001	
Neil Cohen	177 Grove Street	(98)	1999	

FinCom Appointment Committee	**3**	**1 yr.**		
Alan E. Foulds, Chairman	9 Ide Street		Indef.	B.V. of O. Moderator
Jim Keigley	3 Pilgrim Road		Indef.	B.V. of O. F.Chr.
Bruce MacDonald	67 Prospect St.		Indef.	B.V. of O. Chr. BOS

Hazardous Waste Advisory Com.	**5**	**3 yrs.**		**BOS**
Kevin P. Hayes	11 Echo Avenue	(92)	2001	
Foy L. Johnson	16 Enos Circle	(92)	2001	
Martin Offenhaurer	11 Gould Street	(93)	1999	
Regina M. Snyder	11 Jadem Terrace	(89)	1999	
Vacancy			1999	

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Rules Committee	**8**	**1yr. - No more than 6 consecutive yrs.**			**Prec. Mem.**
Nancy Eaton (Precinct 1)		13 Short Street	(96)		
Virginia Adams (Precinct 2)		59 Azalea Circle	(97)		
Alice Grau (Precinct 3)		12 Walnut Street	(97)		
Mary S. Ziegler (Precinct 4)		37 Redgate Lane	(93)		
Robert Fuller (Precinct 5)		450 Summer Avenue	(94)		
Jacqueline S. Chipman (Prec. 6)		94 Summer Avenue	(97)		
Mark Johnson (Precinct 7)		50 Grand Street	(97)		
Fred Van Magness (Precinct 8)		243 Franklin Street	(96)		

School Committee	**6**	**3 yrs.**			**Elected**
Roberta C. D'Antona, Chairman		68 Old Farm Road	(92)	Mar'01	
Timothy Twomey, V. Chairman		23 California Road	(91)	Mar'00	
Susan Cavicchi		4 Orchard Park Drive	(93)	Mar'99	
Harvey J. Dahl		16 Tennyson Road	(98)	Mar'01	
Thomas J. Stohlman		14 Mineral Street	(93)	Mar'99	
Mary E. Williams		82 Mineral Street	(97)	Mar'00	

School Building Committee	**11**	**Indef.**		**Mod.**
Russell T. Graham, Chairman		68 Maple Ridge Road	Town Meeting	
Tim Twomey		23 California Road	School Com.	
Vacancy			Citizen at Large	
Margaret Cowell		958 Main Street	Teacher Rep	
Vacancy			Citizen at Large	
Joseph L. Finigan		62 Oakland Road	School Adm.	
Joseph A. Lupi		167 Summer Avenue	Citizen at Large	
Vacancy			Citizen at Large	
Richard Radville		115 Bancroft Avenue	Citizen at Large	
Roger O. Sanstad		120 Grove Street	Citizen at Large	
Jeff Strueble		4 Tower Road	Citizen at Large	

Sick Bank Committee	**9**	**3 yrs.**		
Elizabeth W. Klepeis, Chairman		16 Lowell Street	2000	**T. Mgr.**
Margaret A. Campbell		16 Lowell Street	2001	**T. Mgr.**
Corinne Fisher		Reading Public Library	1999	**T. Mgr.**
Richard Monroe (Dispatcher)		67 Pleasant Street	1999	**Union**
Kevin Patterson (Police Sup.)		67 Pleasant Street	1999	**Union**
Robert Ripley (DPW)		16 Lowell Street	2000	**Union**
Carol Roberts		16 Lowell Street	1999	**T. Mgr.**
Joseph Veno (Police Patrol)		67 Pleasant Street	1999	**Union**
Daniel Howland (Eng./WTP)		16 Lowell Street	1999	**Union**

BOS – Board of Selectmen; T. Mgr. – Town Manager; Mod. – Town Moderator; B.V. of O. – By virtue of office; Sch. Com. – School Committee; FChr. – Finance Committee Chairman; E. by E. – Elected by Employees. *All terms expire June 30 of year noted, unless indicated otherwise.

Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	**1 + Alternate**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
William F. Crowley	42 Locust Street		(94)	12/99	
Vacancy (Alternate)				12/99	

Municipal Light Board	**5**	**3 yrs.**			**Elected**
Philip B. Pacino, Chairman	3 Copeland Avenue		(87)	Mar'01	
William J. Hughes Jr.	102 Hanscom Avenue		(89)	Mar'01	
Allan E. Ames	14 Arnold Avenue		(79)	Mar'00	
Willard J. Burditt, Secretary	35 Holly Road		(96)	Mar'99	
David M. Swyter	98 Hartshorn Street		(91)	Mar'00	

Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc.	**2**	**3 yrs.**			
Vacancy				9/30/98	**COA**
Rheta C. McKinley	4 Elderberry Lane 4-211			9/30/00	**BOS**

RMLD Citizen Advisory Board	**1**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
John Corbett	376 Pearl Street		(96)	1999	

Recreation Committee	**8 + 1 Sch. Com. + Alt.**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
David H. Bryant, Chairman	113 Oak Street		(94)	2001	
Lorraine Z. Salter, V. Chr.	247 Summer Avenue		(91)	2000	
Christopher Campbell	12 Overlook Road		(93)	1999	
Alan Beaulieu	153 Belmont Street		(98)	2001	
Claire Bolger	23 Lindsay Lane		(96)	2001	
Susan C. Cavicchi	4 Orchard Park Drive		(93)	1999	**Sch. Com.**
Catherine R. Kaminer	37 Warren Avenue		(88)	2000	
Jack Downing	91 Whittier Road		(97)	1999	
Dennis Lucyniak	84 Batchelder Road		(96)	2000	
John Winne (Associate)	29 Clover Circle		(97)	1999	
Susan Fay (Associate)	56 Grey Coach Rd.		(98)	1999	
Mark Eric Nelson (Associate)	71 Winthrop Avenue		(97)	1999	

Regional School District Committee	**1**	**4 yrs.**			**Elected**
Robert S. McCarthy	39 Pine Ridge Road		(98)	'02	

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Title	#Positions	Term	Orig. Date	Term Exp.	Appt'g. Auth.
Town Forest Committee	**3**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
George B. Perry, II, Chairman	230 Franklin Street		(76)	2000	
Irving E. Dickey, Jr., V. Chr.	9 Arbor Way		(75)	1999	
Benjamin E. Nichols, Secretary	25 Avon Street		(77)	2001	

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee	**3**	**3 yrs.**			**BOS**
Gail F. Wood, Chairman	213 Pleasant Street		(88)	2000	
Stewart D. Chipman, Secretary	94 Summer Avenue		(93)	2001	
Richard J. Moore	5 Elm Street		(94)	1999	

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